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INDIA REPORTS 1ST SUSPECTED CASE OF DEADLIER MPOX VIRUS STRAIN

Suspected case of the new and deadlier strain of the virus in a man who arrived in India from a country experiencing mpox transmission

PATIENT ISOLATED, CONTACT TRACING ON

Samples have been collected and are being tested to confirm the presence of mpox, Union health ministry said. The patient has been isolated at a designated hospital and is currently stable. "The case is being managed in line with established protocols, and contact tracing is ongoing to identify potential sources and assess the impact within the country," the health ministry said

INDIA WELL PREPARED, SAYS HEALTH MINISTRY

- Urging the public not to panic, the government said the country is fully prepared to deal with such isolated travel-related cases of mpox
- The mpox virus is known to spread through skin-to-skin contact or sharing items like towels. As many as 15,600 cases and 537 deaths have been reported so far this year globally, according to the WHO | P7

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CASES OF MPOX INFECTIONS CAUSED BY OLDER VIRUS STRAIN REPORTED IN INDIA SINCE 2022

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

TMC's RS member Jawahar Sircar quits over RG Kar horror

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

People take part in a protest march over the rape-murder of a doctor at RG Kar hospital, in Kolkata on Sunday. (Inset) Jawahar Sircar | PTI

PUTTING pressure on the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress, the party's Rajya Sabha member Jawhar Sircar said he was resigning from Parliament and quitting politics altogether, terming the steps taken by the state government in handling the rape and murder of the doctor at RG Kar hospital "too little and quite late".

In a letter addressed to West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Sircar said he was aghast at the state government's apathy towards corruption and the "strong-arm tactics" of a section of party leaders.

"Though I carried on my task in Parliament with fervour, I became increasingly disillusioned as the state government seemed quite unconcerned about corruption and the increasing strong-arm tactics of a section of leaders," he said. Sircar said that in 2022, a year after he joined the TMC, he was shocked to see the 'open corruption' that former education minister Partha Chatterjee had indulged in.

Terming the protests over the doctor's death spontaneous, the former chief of Prasar Bharti said he had not seen "such angst and total no-confidence" against a government.

He said the public outrage over the RG Kar incident reflected the public's growing discontent with the TMC government in West Bengal. "The primary purpose of joining as an MP, without any direct involvement in party politics, was that it offered an excellent forum to carry on the struggle against the autocratic and communal politics of the BJP and its Prime Minister. To that extent, I have some satisfaction and my several interventions in parliament..." he said in the letter. Sircar said he had "suffered patiently" for a month since the incident at RG Kar hospital, hoping for direct intervention with the agitating junior doctors, "in the old style of Mamata Banerjee".

Late on Sunday night, West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose asked Banerjee to hold an emergency Cabinet meeting and discuss the issue. He also reportedly suggested the Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal be removed.

Global human chain against rape-murder

People from all walks of life — from students to rikshaw pullers — hit the streets of Kolkata on Sunday in protest over the rape and murder of a medic in a state-run hospital a month ago. In south Kolkata, around 4,000 ex-students of over 40 schools, a large number of them women, walked 2 km demanding justice for the victim. Meanwhile, in solidarity with the protests in India, people in 130 cities across 30 countries including the US, UK, Ireland, Australia, and Japan formed a 'global human chain' against the rape-murder of the Kolkata doctor on Sunday evening

Join us, Pak sees you as foreigners, Rajnath tells PoK

Dialogue possible only if Pakistan stops terror, says defence minister during J&K election rally

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asked the residents of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to join India, saying "we consider you our own unlike Pakistan which treats you as foreigners".

He said after seeing the development in Jammu and Kashmir, PoK residents will themselves reject Pakistan and join India. "There will be so much development that the people in PoK would say that we do not want to live with Pakistan and instead will go to India," the defence minister said, while addressing an election rally in the Ramban assembly constituency in support of BJP candidate Rakesh Singh Thakur.

The Union minister said there has been a sea change in the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. He said Pakistan's top law officer recently filed an affidavit in court terming PoK a foreign land. "I want to tell PoK residents that people of India don't treat you as foreigners... Come and join us," he said.

In June this year, Pakistan's additional attorney general told the Islamabad High Court in a case related to illegal detention of PoK poet and journalist Ahmed Farhad that PoK is a foreign territory and "therefore not under the jurisdiction of the court". Farhad was abducted by Pakistani intelligence agencies over some of his critical comments. He was produced in court after two weeks and was released a few weeks later.

On the campaign by Kashmir-based parties to restore Article 370, Rajnath said there has been a big change since the provision was scrapped. "After 2019, the Modi government spent ₹38,000 crore on J&K development. Earlier, pistols and revolvers used to be in the hands of Kashmiri youth but now they are carrying laptops and computers," he said.

Rajnath added that talks with Pakistan will be possible only if Islamabad stops terrorism in J&K. "When Pakistan stops sponsoring terrorism in J&K, India will start dialogue with them," he said.

daCunha/AB/976

Manipur CM meets guv, seeks more powers for state to tackle violence

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

AMID speculation that he may quit amid raging ethnic violence in the state, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday met Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya for the second time in 24 hours and submitted a memorandum, demanding protection of the state's territorial integrity and abrogation of the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement.

The SoO pact was signed by the Centre and the Manipur government with two umbrella organisations of Kuki insurgent groups in 2008. Since then, it has been extended periodically.

The Raj Bhawan said the CM and his cabinet colleagues met the governor. But neither the Raj Bhawan nor the CM's office shared contents of the memorandum. According to sources, Singh has sought more powers to the state government to deal with insurgency. The memorandum sought handing over the Unified Command to the state and rejection of Kukis' demand for a 'separate administration'.

Meanwhile, the Assam Rifles on Sunday deployed anti-drone systems in fringe areas to repel any rogue drones. "CRPF has also tested one anti-drone system and given it to the force deployed in the state. Some more anti-drone guns are being brought to the state by CRPF shortly," the Manipur Police said, adding: "The state police have also started the process for procurement of anti-drone system to enhance its security measures and tackle threats from drones effectively." After a hiatus of four months, fresh ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on September 1 with drones being used to mount attacks.

No new incidents of violence have so far been reported on Sunday. SPs in coordination with security forces are continuously monitoring the situation — Official

Two soldiers drown while training near Belagavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

TWO commandos, who were on a training mission, drowned while crossing the Tilari River backwaters when their boat overturned at Tilari along the Karnataka-Maharashtra border on Saturday afternoon.

The deceased have been identified as Vijaykumar Dinwal (28), hailing from Rajasthan, and Diwakar Roy (26) from West Bengal. They were attached to the Junior Leaders Wing, Belagavi.

Police sources said Dinwal and Roy, who were trained soldiers, were undergoing a tough, 35-day commando training. They were being trained to cross a river with the help of boats during emergencies. Apart from the deceased, four other soldiers were on the boat. All of them had completed their training and were returning when the boat capsized just 50 metres away from the river bank when the boat overturned. It is suspected that the vessel was overloaded on one side.

Though the two deceased were trained swimmers, they could not wriggle themselves out as the material, like rope and other equipment used in their mission, fell on them from the boat. The other four soldiers swam to the bank.

Senior officials and their team rushed to the spot and pulled the two out. But when they were rushed to the Belagavi Military Hospital, doctors declared them brought dead.

Police sources said around 180 soldiers are undergoing tough commando training for 35 days.

A case has been registered at the Chandgad Police Station in Maharashtra.

DKS leaves for US on pvt trip, not to meet Harris

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister and KPCC president D K Shivakumar on Sunday left for the USA on a week-long trip.

On reports that he will visit the US on the invitation of Vice-President and Democratic Party's presidential nominee Kamala Harris, he clarified that his visit is purely private and he is not meeting any of the US leaders. He issued a statement saying he will not meet former US president Barack Obama either.

Rejecting reports that he was travelling to the USA to meet some top leaders, Shivakumar said that it is purely a personal visit with the family. "I am travelling to the USA along with my family till September 15. The media reports that I am meeting former US President Barack Obama and US Vice-President Kamala Harris are incorrect. It is a personal visit," he clarified in a press statement.

The DCM also released to the media a letter that he had written to the AICC President regarding his visit to the USA.

But his visit is intriguing ahead of Harris' presidential debate with her rival and Republican Party nominee Donald Trump on September 10 in Philadelphia, suggested analysts.

With Shivakumar's itinerary being confidential, the likelihood of his meeting Harris privately cannot be ruled out as he shares a good bond with her for sometime, sources said.

Interestingly, Shivakumar's US trip coincides with Congress senior leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who will address the Indian diaspora. P4

SEA OF FAITH

A sea of devotees descends to see the chariot procession of Arogya Mata on the last day of St Mary's Feast at St Mary's Basilica in Shivajinagar, Bengaluru, on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Cook harasses woman, beaten up in B'ghatta

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 33-year-old cook was stripped and beaten black and blue by a group of men after he allegedly sexually harassed a woman. The incident took place near Kalkere Colony in Bannerghatta on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday night.

The police have booked Ravi Kumar, a resident of Kalkere and hailing from Dharwad, who works as a cook at a hotel in Kalkere Colony, for allegedly harassing the woman. Five men have also been arrested for assaulting him.

The police said Kumar, after finishing work, was heading home when he allegedly touched the woman, who had come out of her house for some work, inappropriately, around 10.30 pm. The woman screamed for help, prompting nearby residents to rush to her help. They caught Kumar and brutally assaulted him with a stick. He sustained minor injuries and was treated at a hospital.

The woman filed a complaint against Kumar and a case was registered under Section 74 (Assault or use of criminal force to woman to outrage her modesty) of BNS. Kumar too filed a complaint against local residents.

ON A HIGH

RECORD MEDAL HAUL AT PARALYMPIC GAMES

India's para-athletes have had a memorable Paralympic Games in Paris where most of the established names lived up to expectations and many talented young athletes came up with scintillating performances to help India win record 29 medals | P11

EXPRESS READ

Kangana's 'Emergency' gets UA cert from CBFC

NEW DELHI: BJP MP Kangana Ranaut's movie 'Emergency' has received a UA certificate from CBFC. The makers have been told to edit certain scenes and add disclaimers in a few sequences, such as historical events depicted in the film. The release date of the film, however, has not been finalised yet.

In a first, no games village at 2026 Asiad

NEW DELHI: In a first, the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, will not have a games village and the athletes will be accommodated in hotels and cruise ships instead. "We will not have a games village as the Games will be held in two prefectures," Japan Olympic Committee president Tsunekazu Takeda said.

In Koppal, Ganesha Chaturthi celebrated in masjid

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Koppal

IN a unique celebration marking communal harmony, Hindus and Muslims installed a Ganesha idol on the premises of a masjid at Hanumasagar village in Kushtagi taluk of Koppal district and celebrated the festival together.

This is the fourth year that the villagers have been celebrating the festival to spread the message of love and harmony. Hindus and Muslims from neighbouring villages too come to Hanumasagar to take part in the festivities.

The idol is kept at the village's 4th Ward for five days and the entire village takes part in the immersion ceremony carrying the idol to a nearby lake. Lunch is organised during the festival, and youth from all communities raise funds from the villagers. Not only Ganesha festival, the entire village takes part in prominent religious events of both religions throughout the year. The youth are guided by the elders and Gram Panchayat members of the village.

Teams of 8-10 villagers are at the pandal all the time as people from neighbouring villages, Gadag and Vijayangar districts too come here to perform puja.

A villager said, "This is the fourth year that we are celebrating the festival on our masjid premises. People from Vijayanagar and Gadag districts are coming to see the communal harmony Ganesha. We are sending out an important message to our society. People fight among themselves in the name of caste and religion. If we unite and celebrate festivals, it will be a model for others."

The Ganesha idol installed at a masjid in Hanumasagar village, Kushtagi taluk, Koppal district

ALMANAC TODAY
- **Monday:** 09.09.2024 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
- **Ritu:** Varsha • **Masa:** Bhadrapada • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Shashti 4.34 pm
- **Nakshatra:** Vishakha 2.28 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 21°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST Passing showers. Overcast

Sunrise 06.08 am | Sunset 06.24 pm | Moonrise 10.48 am | Moonset 10.24 pm

MERELY 30% OF BDA'S KANMINIKE FLATS SOLD

PAC to visit tomorrow, CAG report says no understanding of housing project; Lack of direct access road a big factor

Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) Kanminike residential project in Bengaluru

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

WITH just one-third of Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) Kanminike residential project (off Mysuru Road) sold so far, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) constituted by the State government will visit the spot on Tuesday. This follows a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), castigating BDA for going ahead with the project without understanding the housing market in the area.

The 20-member committee, comprising MLAs and MLCs, looked into allegations of financial appropriation of government funds on the recommendations of the CAG.

A senior BDA official, explaining that CAG was not correct, said, "We had previously conducted market research through FREI Agency. It revealed that there is a demand for BDA flats in Bidadi, Kumbalgodu and Hejjala, after which we proceeded with the project. The CAG team did not have access to this research report. We explained it to them later and sent a copy to the PAC team too," he explained.

While no one in BDA could give the exact number of flats sold in Kanminike Phase-II, III and IV so far, a senior official said, "Nearly 350 of 1050 flats have been sold. Most of them are 2BHKs and others are 3BHKs. These are round-up figures." Though Kanminike Phase-V has been completed, it has not been opened to the public while Kanminike Phase-I project has been abandoned after the contractor left mid-way.

Another official said, "We have spent nearly Rs 300 crore for these flats. Our money is stuck in it as there is no demand. If we manage to sell all of them, we stand to get Rs 450 crore," he added.

The inability of BDA to provide a direct access road for a 850-metre stretch from Mysuru Road to the flats is cited as the main reason for the sluggish sales. This road was planned five years ago. There is a road from Hejjala via Judicial Layout to the flats, but it is a longish route and is not preferred by potential home buyers who want a direct access road, said the official.

An engineering department official said, "We plan to build a new service road and the land to be acquired has been identified. We have held talks with farmers too. This will be in addition to the new service road already in place. If they prefer, they will be given alternate sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout."

E-auction of corner sites concludes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) concluded its e-auction for 76 corner sites on September 5, fetching it a revenue of Rs 93.29 crore. Corner sites, prized for their road accessibility from both ends have proven to be big revenue grossers for the BDA.

A senior official said that a total of 55 successful bids were received during the auction which ran from August 21 to September 5. HSR 3rd Sector in Yellikunte village attracted the highest bid-- Rs 6.29 crore for a 213.6 square metre site.

Apart from HSR Layout, corner sites in Anjanapura Township Ist Block, 2nd Block, 3rd Block, 7th Block and 10th Block, Banashankari 5th Stage (Uttarahalli village) went under the hammer.

Of late, sites in HSR Layout regularly get the maximum bids. "We had fixed a minimum bid price of Rs 2,02,500 per sqm in the area. The bidder placed a bid of 2,94,500 per sqm. The final bid amount the individual paid was Rs 6,29,05,200," he said. The second highest bid was received for Anjanapura Township 10th Block in Kembathahalli village with Rs 4,94,64,000 bid for a 360 sqm plot while a 308.48 sqm site in Anjanapura Township 7th Block came third with Rs 4,83,07,968 specified as the final bid amount. Nine sites did not receive any bids while eight were rejected. "Four sites were withdrawn from the bid," another official said.

44 TRAINS TO SKIP STOPPAGE AT CANTT FOR 92 DAYS FROM SEPT 20

Due to redevelopment work at Bengaluru Cantonment (BNC) railway station from September 20 to December 20, the station will operate partially. With Platform 2 and 3 to be closed for renovation work, 44 trains will not halt at the station for 92 days, said an official release from Southern Railway (SR)

SOME OF THE TRAINS WHICH WILL NOT HALT HERE DURING THIS PERIOD ARE:

KSR Bengaluru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Shatabdi Express (Train no.12028) departing from Bengaluru	Dr MGR Chennai Central-KSR Bengaluru Shatabdi Express (Train no.12027) departing from Chennai.	Mysuru-Dr MGR Central Superfast Express (Train no. 12610) departing from Mysuru	KSR Bengaluru-Ernakulam Express (Train no. 12677) departing from Bengaluru	Ernakulam-KSR Bengaluru Express (Train no. 12678) departing from Ernakulam	SMVT Bengaluru-Murdeshwar Express leaving SMVT Bengaluru

Fill potholes or face the music: DCM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar warned BBMP officials of stern action if they failed to fill up potholes across the city within the deadline he has given. Speaking to reporters after holding a meeting with senior officials of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Sunday, the Bengaluru Development minister said he has directed officials to fill up potholes in all wards on a priority basis. "I have asked them to set aside other works and carry out works to ensure that there are no potholes in the city. All officers at the ward level, regardless of their ranks, should be on the ground and monitor works to make the city roads pothole-free. If there are any complaints from the public, action will be initiated against the officers and staff concerned," he warned.

It may be recalled that the DCM had held a meeting with BBMP officials on September 1 and had given a 15-day deadline to fill up potholes.

Meanwhile, he told reporters that he also directed officials to identify trees and take necessary steps so that incidents of tree fall do not occur again. In the recent past, two auto drivers lost their lives and several others were injured in separate incidents of tree falls.

Further, he said that as sudden rains are expected in the month of September, he has asked the BBMP officials to be prepared and take steps to ensure that there are no incidents of water logging at houses in low-lying areas and flooding in certain localities.

Pledge for cleanliness

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi, a mega cleanliness awareness campaign will be held involving students of all schools in the city, the DCM said. "As part of the campaign, the students will pledge that they will keep their surroundings clean," he added.

UNTIL NEXT YEAR...

A Ganesha idol being immersed in Yediyur Lake in Bengaluru on Sunday. As of September 7, BBMP reported that more than 2.17 lakh Ganesha idols were immersed. The data reflects immersions carried out at permanent locations and mobile tankers stationed throughout city. Of the total, 1,76,895 idols were immersed at permanent locations and 40,106 at BBMP's mobile tanks | SHASHIDHAR BY RAPPA

EXPRESS READ

451 signs collected against restriction on protests in city

Bengaluru: Horaatada Hakkigagi Janandolana (Campaign for the Right to Protest) collected 451 signatures for an open letter to CM Siddaramaiah, following a Police Commissioner's order of restricting protests to only Freedom Park. On Sunday, the coalition, launched a campaign across Metro and bus services against the unconstitutional restriction on the right to freedom of assembly. The members of the group also enaged with bus commuters in Majestic. The campaign comes ahead of the Karnataka Government's celebration of International Day of Democracy on September 15. They added that the campaign will continue till September 15 and will also be held online.

Garib Rath begins more trips between Ernakulam, Yelahanka

Bengaluru: Owing to huge passenger demand and to avoid crowds, the Garib Rath special between Ernakulam and Yelahanka began operating five more trips from September 8 and will continue operations till September 18. An official release said the Ernakulam-Yelahanka-Ernakulam Garib Rath Triweekly Special (Train No. 06101/06102) has been extended from Ernakulam starting September 8 to 18 and from Yelahanka starting September 9 till 19.

ANIMAL ADOPTION IN BBP REMAINS LUKEWARM SINCE 2022

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THERE are not many takers for the adoption scheme in Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP). The reasons, according to the management, are lack of awareness about the scheme and lack of interest among people. The number of people coming forward to adopt animals and birds has not seen a drastic rise since 2022.

"Bengaluru houses a large high income population, and the footfall at BBP has been on the rise year after year. Yet, the number of people coming forward to adopt animals and birds for a day or for a year, or even participate in the animal feeding programme, has not seen a proportionate rise. We are now looking at what more can be done... Each time people visit or group bookings are done, they are informed of the initiative," said a zoo official.

FEW TAKERS FOR ADOPTION

YEAR	ADOPTION	ONE-DAY FEEDING	ADOPTION THROUGH APP	TOTAL (in Rs)
2021-22	1,09,85,307	15,15,165	67,26,714	1,92,27,186
2022-23	66,08,493	2,79,756	9,42,802	78,31,051
2023-24	67,99,849	2,08,774	2,36,118	72,44,741
2024-25	11,73,151	1,41,368	1,29,321	14,43,840 (till Aug)

The official said the animal adoption scheme attracts tax exemption, and the adopter is given a certificate for the contribution. The adopter's name is displayed on the enclosure for the adoption duration. The person is also given regular updates on health and feeding, and is given an opportunity to visit the animal at regular intervals.

BBP Executive Director Surya Sen said, "We are working on increasing awareness campaigns." He added that the most sought-after species for adoption and feeding are elephants, tigers and birds.

As per BBP data, in the year 2021-22, BBP earned Rs 1,09,85,307 from the adoption scheme; in 2022-23, it earned Rs 66,08,493, and in 2023-24, it earned Rs 67,99,849, while it got Rs 11,73,151 in 2024-25 (till August 2024).

Data shows there was a rise in the year 2021-22, but after that there was a dip in adoption and animal feeding, and adoption through the Zoo Authority of Karnataka app.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

09th September: It is time to appreciate everything that is best about the past. That includes our great spiritual traditions and the insight they bring into the mysteries of the universe, especially teachings about compassion. It also requires that we retain our right to ask the right questions, and never accept authority blindly.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
It's an emotional day and you're set for a busy week with many changes of mood. From today, the urgency to pursue various negotiations, especially those with a personal dimension, will become more obvious. Yet there is no immediate rush to reach a decision.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
At last, you can begin to map out the future. Plans for the next stage of your relentless advance should now be complete. You are being buoyed up by a continuing sense that financial conditions can only improve. On the other hand, further information is required, as you well know.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
That optimistic planet Jupiter is at a crucial point in its twelve-year cycle around your horoscope, during which opportunities have come and gone. The sky is the limit as the culmination of this long-term phase approaches. I'd say it's time to broaden your horizons.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Your passions are due to increase. Far from under-mining you, partners' discreet actions will be calculated to further your interests. In any case, it will be a brave person who manages to take you on, and win, as long as Mars and Venus are so closely linked.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Partners are playing a compli-cated game, that's for sure. You're still faced with contradictions, but may be utterly unable to clarify the issues, let alone resolve differences. Fall back on support from social contacts as a means of pursuing your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You've got three substantial planetary movements over the next week. Venus is soon to join Mercury and Uranus to complete a brilliant and determined trio in critical sectors of your solar chart. There really is nothing that you cannot achieve, if you set your heart on it.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Yours is not usually known as an adventurous sign, even though individual Librans have often been known to take a tough stance. Now is one of those times when all of you may take several major steps forward. If you have any truly loyal friends, stick close - they're the ones who will carry you to the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Much has been written about your financial and business affairs over recent months. Everything that takes place now will convince you that good fortune is likely to become permanent rather than, as once you feared, be no more than a temporary blip.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
However much you pretend otherwise, chance words can go deep. It must now be repeated that if you step aside and allow partners to take centre stage, you may share in their good fortune. Also, decisions involving your personal affairs must be taken in the full light of day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The planets are indicating the possibility of a dramatic improvement in your health. Yet this will not take place without some initiative on your part, perhaps dietary, perhaps associated with complementary medicine or a new exercise regime.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
An extraordinary line-up of pugnacious planets is exerting an influence over creative sectors of your chart, producing exactly the degree of support that you need at this time. Among the beneficiaries are people to whom you are romantically linked.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
At last you can feel that property and domestic affairs are going your way. Certainly, you can afford to be optimistic about family relationships and everything which is emotionally fundamental to your existence. You'll also stop imagining that a partner is blocking your path.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

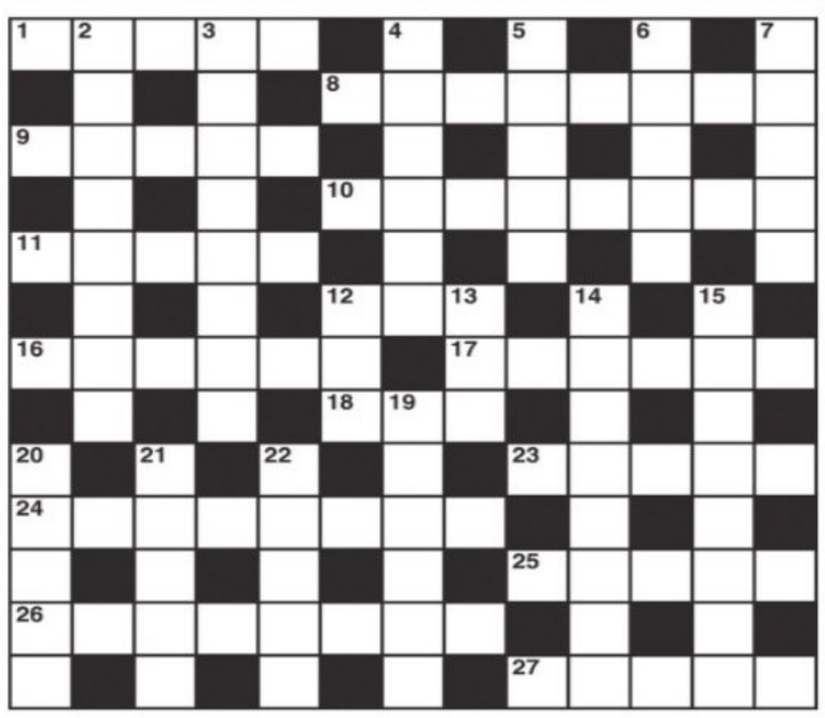
5	7				3	8		
		6		8				9
			1			6	7	2
6					2			
		7				5		
			3					8
7	3	5			4			
8				3		2		
		1	5				8	3

2	3	6	5	8	4	7	1	9
5	8	1	7	9	3	2	4	6
4	7	9	2	1	6	5	8	3
6	9	5	3	7	8	1	2	4
3	2	8	1	4	5	6	9	7
7	1	4	6	2	9	3	5	8
8	6	3	4	5	1	9	7	2
1	4	2	9	3	7	8	6	5
9	5	7	8	6	2	4	3	1

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Grown like this it's an offence (5)
8 Aid to lookout on the bridge (5-3)
9 A very exacting business (5)
10 Broken nail lost horse (8)
11 To grease it means hard work (5)
12 Vessel that had a full complement of mates (3)
16 Give loud cry of pain like a coward (6)
17 Very strange verse on love (4,2)
18 Animal seen in the menagerie (3)
23 Venture to say it could go on forever (5)
24 Perfect lady about fifty (8)
25 Father has to avail himself of a temporary rest (5)
26 What the bride says afterwards won't be in church (8)
27 Depended on a fast round (5)

DOWN
2 Found the answer again being determined (8)
3 Larry won perhaps but not by a lot (8)
4 It may be carried on though by-laws forbid it (6)
5 Reach the heights in music? (5)
6 End of a novel passage (5)
7 Circular belt of gas (5)
12 Two points on a beard (3)
13 Cask from the King's Head for example (3)
14 Give one an order to paint? (8)
15 It's criminal to take a couple of fools in (8)
19 Seal is broken revealing passages (6)
20 Share the rent (5)
21 Wrongly opted for the storehouse (5)
22 This vehicle will not go under water (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Conveyance, 6 Clod, 10 Metre, 11 Eccentric, 12 Pentagon, 13 Recap, 15 Charges, 17 Take out, 19 Open-air, 21 Convert, 22 Laced, 24 Trappist, 27 Indian ink, 28 Urged, 29 Earl, 30 Reprobates.

Down: 1 Come, 2 Notre Dame, 3 Event, 4 Avenges, 5 Coconut, 7 Lyric, 8 Decapitate, 9 Unbroken, 14 Schooltime, 16 Guardian, 18 Oversight, 20 Ratline, 21 Cracker, 23 Cedar, 25 Plumb, 26 Odds.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

LPYPA

OKOCR

AOMOTT

CEJBTO

Thanks for driving today!
It's cool! We live so close together. We can take turns.
7/15
THE TEEN LIFEGUARDS WHO WORKED AT THE TOWN'S SWIMMING FACILITY LIKED ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SALAD ELUDE CONVEY FATHER
Answer: If a tennis player is going to win consistently, he or she can't have a — FAULTY SERVE

A 24-year-old youth came under the wheels of a heavy chariot at the Guru Siddeshwara annual car festival in Ingalgi village, near Vijayapura on Sunday. The deceased, Devendra Badiger, was walking next to the chariot, when he came under the wheel. He was reportedly pushed, as hundreds of devotees were pulling the chariot

Project Suraksha to tackle suicide rates

Community-based initiative to help vulnerable groups like farmers, students and women across rural Karnataka

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

IN a bid to combat suicidal thoughts among vulnerable groups such as farmers, students, daily wage labourers, and women in rural Karnataka, NIMHANS and the Government of Karnataka, in partnership with Himalaya Wellness Company, have launched Project Suraksha. The community-based suicide prevention initiative, known as the surveillance system to track suicide and self-harm, focuses on early identification, crisis intervention, and mental health support.

Currently operating across 32 panchayats in the Channapatna taluk of Ramanagara district, the project has engaged over 18,500 individuals through extensive awareness campaigns. The highlight of the project is the creation of Community-Based Surveillance Teams (CBST), which consist of more than 550 trained gatekeepers, including Asha workers and Anganwadi teachers, who monitor high-risk individuals.

Moreover, the project has a Brief Intervention for Self-Harm and Suicidality (BISS) program which offers personalised counselling and support, reaching over 400 individuals and their families so far.

The project is aligned with the WHO's 'Live life' framework for suicide prevention, which emphasises on limiting access to means of suicide, fostering socio-emotional skills in young people, early identification and support for those at risk. By adopting global best practices to the local context, the project aims to address high-risk groups by training community gatekeepers.

KG Umesh, Director - HR, Himalaya Wellness Company told TNIE that the project aims to specifically target groups like farmers, students, women, and daily wage labourers. The school-based programs educate students on mental health and response strategies, while trained gatekeepers work closely with farmers and rural labourers to identify emerging mental health risks.

He further explained that for women and marginalised groups, direct interventions and crisis support are provided at local Primary Health Centres (PHCs).

For this project, NIMHANS brings technical expertise in mental health research, counselling, and surveillance, ensuring the project follows evidence-based methods suited to local needs while the state government integrates these strategies within the public health infrastructure, enhancing outreach, scalability, and sustainability.

HELMET SAFETY

Break traffic rules, find yourself in counselling session

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA police launched counselling sessions for motorists who fail to wear helmets on state and national highways.

The counselling sessions aim to educate two-wheeler riders about the importance of wearing helmets and other safe riding practices. The session will run for two months, and from November 1, police will begin a special drive to target offenders who fail to wear helmets. Police have taken up the initiative as the fatality rate among two-wheeler riders is high among road users.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) for Traffic & Road Safety Alok Kumar told TNIE there is a slight decline in fatal accidents in the state. "People know they should wear helmets but fail to do so. Across the state, police are conducting sessions to educate them on the importance of helmets and safe riding practices."

During the sessions, the respective divisions present data on fatal and non-fatal accidents that occurred in their jurisdiction, helping raise awareness about traffic rules. After the two-month counselling period, starting November 1, police will launch a special drive to penalize those not wearing helmets on highways. Police will continue to book offenders for other traffic violations.

Kumar added that 1,000 police personnel have been trained to conduct these counselling sessions. The officers will teach safe and defensive driving techniques. In addition to two-wheeler riders, there will also be sessions for truck drivers and KSRTC bus drivers, who are often involved in accidents that result in pedestrian fatalities.

150 attend weekly session in Ch'nagar

Chamarajanagar SP G Sangeetha said that an average of 150 people attend the sessions each week across 16 police stations in the district. The police have prepared a 30-minute video showing fatal and non-fatal accidents that have occurred in the district. The video also educates them on the importance of wearing helmets and following traffic rules to prevent accidents, she said, adding, "We catch offenders who fail to wear helmets and inform them to attend the session without fail, and conduct the session in the police station."

Flyer with sharp items, creates ruckus at KIA, held

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

A Bengaluru resident flying to Delhi was caught for carrying prohibited items in his baggage during security screening at Terminal one of Kempegowda International Airport recently. 34-year-old Praveen Kumar, created a ruckus inside the airport following which he was not allowed to board the flight and detained by security personnel.

An FIR has been filed by the airport police against Kumar under BNS 2023 under sections 132 and section 352. The incident occurred at 4 am last Wednesday (September 4). Kumar, a resident of HBR Layout 5th Block, was on his way to board an IndiGo flight to Delhi (6E 2021), which was to depart at 5.45 am.

The complaint was booked by CISF Sub-Inspector Shiv Kumar. The FIR copy states that when checks were being carried out by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel at the Automatic Tray Retrieval System on lane 4, the X-ray scan of Kumar's bag revealed some images of some sharp items.

"The bag contained tools including a screw driver and a pair of cutting pliers among others. Hence he was detained," said a source. Kumar was questioned. "He was not co-operating with the investigating officers and was disrespectful towards them. He was also shouting loudly and creating a scene. He was not allowed to board the flight and detained," the copy stated.

The FIR was booked against him by CISF the same evening.

FESTIVE FOLKLORE

A special performance by Chitpavana Mahila Yakshagana Mandal during Ganesha Utsava at Shankar Math in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

AIR B'luru to host cybercrime seminar

Bengaluru: To raise awareness on cyber crimes and equip people, especially college students, with knowledge on combatting them, All India Radio Bengaluru will host a seminar on cyber awareness on Thursday. The event, scheduled to take place at Rockwood Green Public School in Basavanapura on Bannerghatta Road, will start by 10.30 am. Those interested can register for free at the venue.

Two youth die in separate accidents

ENS @Bengaluru

TWO youth, including a pedestrian, died in separate road accidents in the city on Sunday.

18-year-old Rohith, a resident of Kachanahalli in Nelamangala, was mowed down by a speeding two-wheeler near Kannamangala village junction on the Bengaluru-Ballari highway in the wee hours of Saturday. He worked at a bike service station in Kannamangala.

In another incident, 22-year-old Yogesh, a final-year engineering student at a private college in the city and a resident of Ramamurthy Nagar, died when he lost control over his speeding bike while crossing a road hump and fell. The incident happened around 5.30 am on Rajanukunte-Yantaganahalli Road.

OBITUARY

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother, Mrs. Santha Nair, Konnanath House, Chelakkara and resident of RT Nagar - Bengaluru, who left us on 07 Sept 2024 at the age of 83. Surrounded by her loving family and friends in her final moments, she was a woman of immense grace and wisdom, and the guiding light of a large and beautiful family. She is survived by her husband, VKN Nair, her daughters, and their families. In grief - Nila & Madhavan, Sandhya & Sunil, Abhishek & Shramana, Aditi, Shloka, and Stuthi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client **N.V.Ramesh Babu** has entered into agreement of sale for purchase of the immovable property described in the schedule hereunder from its Owner **Pramila Devi W/o. B.S. Marulasiddappa,** D/o. C.R. Sadashivaiah, aged 74 years, residing at No.86, SBM Colony, Gerehally Layout, Bengaluru-50, represented by her GPAholder **N.V. Venugopal.**

Any person/s having / claim of any manner of right, title, lien or interest in respect of the schedule property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary proof in support of such claim within **7 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will be advised to proceed with the sale transactions, as if there is no valid claims subsisting against the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Building site demarcated as **Site No.206/227,** in the Layout Plan approved by the Bangalore City Improvement Trust Board, relating to the Plot of Land measuring 22 Acres and 37 Guntas, in Survey No.12/1, 21/2, 21/3, 21/4, 21/5, 21/6, 22/2, and Survey No.15, situated at **Gerehalli Village, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District,** and the Site measuring East to West: 22 feet+33 feet/2, North to South: 38+33.6 feet+57 feet/2 and bounded on :

East by : Revenue Land, West by : Site No.205, North by : 30' Road, South by : Site No.228.

A. RAJESH, Advocate,
No. 16, 6th Main,Gandhinagar
Bengaluru-560 009. M : 97399 50950
Mobile No.98865 44737, 98868 27144

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: 903/SE(E)/Tr(W&M)/Civil/24-25/CYS-26 Date: 06.09.2024

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for **Capital Civil engineering works (CALL-2)** coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Hubballi.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the "**Karnataka Public Procurement Portal**" mode can be obtained by logging on to **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal's** website **"https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in".** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),Tr(W & M) Circle, KPTCL, Vidyuthnagar, Karwar Road, Hubballi - 580 024,Ph. No.: 0836-2203094.

Indian Overseas Bank

Retail Mart -Residency Road Branch (0268)
Address: No.133/2, Janardhan Tower Residency Road, Bengaluru 560025., Telephone: 91-080-22950366, E mail: 0800retail@iob.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E- AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has taken possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on, **AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and AS IS WHAT IS BASIS** for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the **Web Portal https://ebkray.in**

Name & address of the Borrowers: Mr.Shree Om Kumar Patel S/o.Ranjit Prasad Kurmi Room No.9 B Block Manasa Nilaya Kariamana Agrahara, Bellandur, Near Patel Public School, Bangalore 560103

Date of NPA: 26.02.2024 **Date of Demand notice: 27.02.2024**

Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.56,31,918/- as on 27.02.2024 with further interest & costs.

Date of Possession Notice: 24.05.2024

Dues claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.55,36,603/- as on 21.05.2024 with further interest & costs less repayments, if any, made after issuance of demand notice.

Outstanding dues as on 06.09.2024 is Rs.56,66,951.32 with further interest & costs till the date of repayment in full.

***Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc.): Not known**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Schedule 'A': All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing site no.21 bearing old khatha No.582/0/21, BBMP new khatha No.641/1/582/0/31/33/21, coming under the purview of BBMP Ward No.8 measuring East to West 70 feet & North to South 40 feet situating at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahandka Hobali, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, bounded on **West by :** Road, **North by:** Site No.22, **East by:** Site No.18, **South by:** Site No.20.

Standing in the name of Mr.Shree Om Kumar Patel

Schedule 'B': All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing site No.22 bearing old khatha No.582/0/22, BBMP New Khatha No.383/582/0/22, coming under the purview of BBMP Ward No.8 measuring East to West & North to South 40 feet situating at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, bounded on : East By: Site No.17, **West By:** Road, **North By**: Site No.23, **South By :** Site No.21

Schedule 'C': Flat bearing F202, in the second floor, with a super built up area of 1342 Sq.ft in the Apartment building known as "Shri Sai Shanthi Nilaya" car parking along with 230 Sq.ft of undivided share constructed in site Nos.21 & 22 measuring in total 5600 sq.ft vide Amalgamation Khatha No.641/1/582/0/31/33/21, (schedule A & B properties) along with undivided share in the total land situating at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, with all civic amenities hereto and the exclusive right to own one covered car parking space in the stilt area, vide Flat F202, and **Flat bounded as follows ; East by:** Private property (open to Sky), **West by:** Flat No.F204, **North by :** Flat No.F201, **South by:** Private property (open to sky)

Inclusive of proportionate right to use in common area such as passage, staircase and other areas of common use with concealed wiring together with specifications.

The reserve price and the earnest money deposit is:

Sr. No.	Security Details	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid Increase Amt
1	Immovable Property as mentioned above	Rs. 59,85,000/-	Rs.5,98,500/-	Rs.50,000/-

Date & Time of auction: 09.10.2024, 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM

Bid increase amount: Rs. 50,000/- **Auto extension time: 10 minutes**

Known Encumbrance if any: NIL

Inspection Date & Time: during office hours from 10:00 AM till 05:00 PM, from 09.09.2024 to 08.10.2024.

***Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues.**

For terms and conditions please visit: **https://www.iob.in/e-Auctions.aspx , https://www.publishtenders.gov.in , https://ebkray.in/eauction-psb/bidder-registration** (web portal of e-auction of Service provider)

Date: 06-09-2024 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Indian Overseas Bank**

Indian Overseas Bank

Retail Mart-Residency Road Branch NO.2, Janardhan Tower Ground Floor, Gen Kariappa Road, Residency Road, Bangalore 560025, Email: 0800retail@iob.in

(APPENDIX IV) [(Rule 8(1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas,The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **demand notice dated 25.06.2024** and received by you on 03.07.2024 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors **Mr.Murali Mohan** Y V residing at No.595, Ground Floor, NTI Society Layout, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Near GKVK, Bangalore 560097. (hereinafter referred as **"borrower"**)to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.50,49,983/-** (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Three Only) as on **25.06.2024** with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc., till date of realization, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **06/09/2024.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of **Rs.50,49,983/-** (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Three Only) as on **25.06.2024** with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is **Rs.51,28,913.18/-** (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirteen and Eighteen Paise Only) as on **06.09.2024** payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section(8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Nature of Security:Equitable Mortgage followed by Registered memorandum of Residential house flat (Prime Security)

Particulars of Securities: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Flat No: F-403 on the fourth floor, in the apartment building known as " Shri Shanthi Nilaya" along with 230 sq.ft undivided share constructed in site No: 21 & 22, ID Khatha No: 582/0/21 & Khatha No: 582/0/22 after the amalgamation BBMP New Khatha No: 641/1/ 582/0/31/33/21 Schedule A & B Property hereto with a super built up area of 1342 sq.ft along with undivided sharein the total land situating at Kodigenhalli village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk with all civic amenities hereto and the exclusive right to own one covered car parking space in the stilt area, vide flat No - 403 which is standing in the name of Mr.Murali Mohan Y.V. **Boundary of the flat as follows:East by :** F-401, **West by:** Private property, **North by:** Private property, **South by:** Flat No. F-404

The property inclusive of proportionate right to use in common area such as passage, Staircase, and other area of common use with concealed wiring together with specifications

Date: 06-09-2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Indian Overseas Bank**

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XPRESS FOCUS

25TH FOUNDATION DAY OF BHARAT MASALA

Odia Individuals to Receive Priority in Industrial Establishment: Chief Minister

- Government Focus on MSME Industries
- Praise for Bharat Masala's Achievements
- Panchayati Raj Minister Calls for Odisha to be Free of Dadan (Labour Migration)
- MSME Industries to be Prioritised: Minister of Industries

"We often talk about Odia identity, but we must show our commitment through actions, not just words. If any Odia youth or entrepreneur expresses interest in establishing an industry, they will be given priority. The state government is ready to provide full support in this regard," said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

The Chief Minister made these remarks as the Chief Guest at the 25th Foundation Day of Bharat Masala and the Bharat Pratibha Samman 2024.

At the grand ceremony held at the Bharat Masala premises in Barang, Chief Minister Majhi praised Bharat Masala Founder, Surendranath Panda, and Managing Director, Susanta Panda, for their efforts. He remarked that Bharat Masala has established a distinct identity not only within the state but also internationally. The company, which began with just ₹400, has now grown into an enterprise with a turnover of ₹600 crore. Thanks to its leadership, employees, and product quality, Bharat Masala has created a vast market and provided employment opportunities for many Odia families.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the new government is focusing on the establishment of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The government plans to set up many such industries across the state. In a short period, 11 MSME industries are expected to be established, generating significant employment opportunities. As Odisha approaches its centenary in 2036, the goal is to transform the state into a prosperous one, with MSMEs playing a crucial role in this development. Bharat Masala is already contributing to various developmental activities in its surrounding areas, and the Chief Minister urged the company to further increase its efforts in nearby villages.

Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Nayak, who was the Guest of Honour at the event, called for efforts to free Odisha from the problem of Dadan (Labour Migration). The Chief Minister also expressed concern about labour migration in Odisha and emphasised the importance of various government schemes such as MGNREGA, ORMAS, and the "Developed Villages, Developed Odisha" scheme under the Panchayati Raj department. He stressed that these schemes should benefit every individual. Additionally, he highlighted that the upcoming MSMEs in Odisha should prioritise employing Odia youth. This will prevent young people from migrating for work, thereby erasing the negative image associated with Odisha's labour migration. Minister Nayak further assured that Bharat Masala's future demand for chillies would be met by farmers from Kuchinda, as the company is already sourcing chillies from that region.

Industries Minister Sampad Swain, also present at the event, reiterated the state's emphasis on MSMEs. He announced plans to establish a 'Common Facility Centre' to support MSMEs and the creation of a multi-logistics park to facilitate commercial activities by air, water, and land.

Bharat Masala Founder Surendranath Panda shared the story of how the business, which began with a stone grinder and door-to-door sales, has reached great heights. Similarly, Bharat Masala Managing Director Susanta Panda requested that the state government provide the necessary support to farmers in Odisha to ensure a sufficient supply of raw materials for spices.

Currently, Bharat Masala relies on states such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and others for several raw materials. If these raw materials were available in Odisha, the state's farmers would greatly benefit. Panda also pointed out that while Paradip Port handles coal transportation, small traders still depend on Kolkata, Mumbai, or Vizag ports for their goods. This has caused significant losses for small businesses in Odisha.

During the event, the first edition of the souvenir magazine "Sambhavami Bharat," published by the Jay Bharat Foundation, was unveiled by the Chief Minister, Editor Nandita Panda, Associate Editor Prafulla Mahanty, and other distinguished guests.

On this occasion, Dr Saroj Kumar Panigrahi, Chief Scientist at CBRI, was honoured with the Bharat Gaurav Samman, while Dr Rabi Narayan Senapati received the Seva Bharat Samman. Notable author Dr Gayatribala Panda was honoured with the Katha Bharat Samman. Odia film producer Sitaram Agrawal and eminent musical artist Namita Agrawal were honoured with the Sanskruti Bharat Samman. Mountaineer Bibharani Patra received the Krida Bharat Samman, and Pragyan Paramita Giri, Silva Sahoo, and Chinmay Patra were honoured with the Vidya Bharat Samman by the distinguished guests.

The Mahadayi project faced setbacks due to the Congress, alleged Haveri-Gadag MP Basavaraj Bommai. He alleged that in 2009, the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi had stated that Karnataka would not receive a drop of Mahadayi water

BIG PICTURE

GOOD ROADS REMAIN A CHIMERA

Across Karnataka's cities, potholed roads are the bane of the motorist, who risks life and limb to get about daily work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AS the state government talks about improving mobility, undertaking construction of highways and expressways, and an 18-km long tunnel road in Bengaluru, experts point out that the basic requirement of commuters is left unanswered: good roads.

Last Wednesday, when IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said Karnataka was way ahead of any other state in information technology in India, netizens and citizens pointed out that the city lagged in providing basic infrastructure, like filling up potholes. Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru in-charge minister was trolled and criticised for his statement "Bengaluru roads are far better than Delhi's", Bengalureans said: "Do not compare, instead ensure roads are improved in Bengaluru, which is an IT hub."

Shivakumar also set a 15 day-deadline for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineers to fill up potholes. On September 2, he promised that 2,795 potholes in the city will be repaired within 15 days. He also announced an allocation of Rs 600 crore to repair all major roads in the city.

But BBMP engineers have pointed a finger at protesting contractors and said the deadline cannot be met. "How can we work when there are no contractors? We have 5,000 bags of cold mix in our plant to repair roads, each bag weighing 35kg. The weather is also apt, but there is little assistance to do the work," a BBMP official said.

A senior BBMP official said it costs Rs 600-1000 to fill a pothole. "There is no dearth of funds to fill the potholes, and work is happening. The maximum complaints are from the city outskirts where developmental works are under progress," said a BBMP engineer. But citizens are not convinced. They assert that nothing is happening and point to the increasing number of road accidents and injuries commuters are suffering because of bad roads. They recollect an incident from October 2022, where a woman died after she was hit by a speeding bus, while trying to avoid a pothole opposite Lulu Mall in Binnypet.

"This is not a stray incident; there have been many instances after that, yet little has been done," said Sakshi K, a banker, who suffered grievous injuries while trying to avoid a pothole at the same location in August 2024. "Nothing has changed. The potholed roads are there, accident locations keep changing. BBMP says they are filling potholes, they just resurface," she said.

It is not just citizens who have expressed anguish, the High Court also pulled up government agencies over poor road conditions. In 2022, the Karnataka High Court directed BBMP to repair major roads within 10 days. The court recently took note of bad roads near its complex. Orthopaedists point out that the number of people approaching them with spinal and knee pain are on the rise, and most of them are two-wheeler riders.

BBMP officials point fingers at government agencies like the Public Works Department, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, energy department and private companies laying optic fibre cables, for the poor road condition.

"Under the Nirbhaya scheme, the police department is cutting roads to lay cables for installing cameras. Bengaluru is a developing and growing city, so for utilities, other agencies dig roads. A pothole is a circular shaped structure and is an inferior part of the road. But that is not the only damage on a road. In Bengaluru, roads are not meant only for traffic, but are also a space for other underground utilities," said the BBMP engineer.

But experts are not convinced. Slamming the condition of roads, they said the degrees of engineers should be seized and they should be sent back to learn the basics of road engineering.

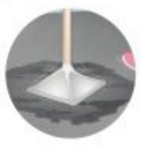
Prof Ashish Verma, convener, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, Department of Civil Engineering, IISc said: "Even if the potholes are filled properly, they will re-appear. This is either done purposely or due to lack of basic engineering knowledge. Potholes are not just in Bengaluru, but in Delhi, Mumbai and all other cities. But they are not seen in other countries, where there are black topped roads. The roads have a good life there because simple engineering rules and methods are strictly followed. The road is slightly raised in the centre and there are cross slope edges along with well maintained shoulder drains on both sides. This ensures there is no water stagnation and the runoff is smooth. These are also spelt out in the Indian Road Congress guidelines, which should be strictly followed. Engineers and contractors should be penalised for the poor road condition."

Officials in the Urban Development Department and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department said the problem of bad roads is not limited to Bengaluru, but is seen in other two-and three-tier cities. An RDPR official mocked: "Roads in other cities have started to appear like those of Malgudi Days tales, where kuchha roads were seen."

IRC GUIDELINES ON FIXING A POTHOLE

PREPARATION: The pothole shall be cleaned with a stiff wire brush and all loose material, including dust, shall be removed with a soft brush. The pothole need not be dry. However, excess water shall be swept off the pothole

PLACING MIX: The mix is intended for patching potholes up to 75mm (3 inches) deep. For deeper potholes, patching mix shall be placed and compacted in 75mm thick layers. If the pothole is deep and extends further or has a granular base, the mix should be applied to a suitable tack coat or prime coat, as feasible



COMPACTING THE MIX: First the outside edge or periphery of the patch shall be compacted with a hand rammer or small compactor, and then compaction shall be done. For deep potholes, place the patching mix and compact in 75mm thick layers. The compacted patch shall be slightly higher than the existing road surface to allow further compaction by traffic

APPLYING SAND: Before opening the compacted patch to traffic, sufficient amounts of clean sand shall be sprinkled on the patch to prevent pick up by traffic

Vijayapura: Rain aggravation

The historic city draws scores of domestic and international tourists to see its ancient monuments, but the roads are in very poor condition. Damaged and potholed roads are a common sight in Vijayapura city all through the year. The problem, however, aggravates during monsoon. Not just interior roads, even main roads are filled with potholes and minor accidents are the order of the day during the monsoon.

Corporation Commissioner Vijaykumar Mekkalaki said the government has granted funds for the construction of roads. "But due to rain, we cannot take up asphalting. Water is the biggest enemy of asphalt. However, we have taken up extensive work on potholes in the city, considering the Ganesha Chaturthi festival, where people will use the roads for processions. Tenders for construction of roads will soon be floated and work will start after the monsoon," he said.

Belagavi: In time for festival

Ganesha festival has pressurised the authorities to get on their feet and repair pathetic roads immediately, be it on temporary basis. Most roads in Belagavi city are in pathetic condition and complaints are piling up with the authorities. Following recent heavy rain, the roads have become bad and repairing them has become more difficult for the authorities.

Speaking to TNIE, Laxmi Nippanikar, Superintendent Engineer, Belagavi City Corporation, said asphalting roads is difficult due to rain. She said that some roads are dusty and scrubby in the city. While, few other roads have huge potholes. Road repair works are being taken up on temporary basis and priority is being given to major roads. Small potholes are being filled with wet mix, which will sort the problem. Permanent solution to repair the roads can be done only after monsoon, she added.

Udupi: Potholes reappear

The city roads in Udupi are in average condition after heavy rainfall that occurred this season. Potholes have reappeared on the Brahmagiri- Ajjarakad (Town Hall) stretch which was recently asphalted. Similar is the case on the stretch between Kinnimulki and Jodukatte. Potholes appeared four months ago, but no action was taken to fill them.

Udupi CMC president Prabhakar Poojary said the priority of the corporation is to ensure that all roads in Udupi are in good condition. Udupi CMC Commissioner Rayappa said a budget of Rs 4lakh has been set aside for filling potholes on city roads. "Work will start within a day or two and will be completed in a week's time," Rayappa said.

Madikeri: Rain damages roads

Permanent road relief work has not been carried out across Kodagu for over a year now. Potholes have become a common sight on roads across the district. National Highway (NH) 275 from Sampaje to Mysuru is also in a pitiable condition due to absence of road maintenance work. Incessant rain in July has caused severe damage to bridges and roads across the district.

"Around 75 road relief works are to be conducted by the Public Works Department (PWD). Also Rs 3.44 crore fund is required for temporary road relief works. We are currently carrying out pothole filling work," said Siddegowda, PWD Executive Engineer. He added that Rs 76 crore funds is required to conduct the relief works of the damaged PWD roads, bridges and a few buildings. Town and city roads across the district are also in a pathetic condition and need permanent relief work.

Hassan: Meagre funds for roads

Except for major roads, most roads connecting different extensions are also not in motorable condition in Hassan city. Experts point out that grants released to construct and repair roads and drainage are meagre.

Channegowda, assistant executive engineer, Hassan city municipal council, said Rs 2.74 crore has been released under the 15th Finance Commission for the year 2024-25, to repair and construct roads. He added that potholes will be filled using CMC grants at the earliest.

Taking the state government to task for his alleged failure to release enough grants to repair roads, Yogindra Babu, councillor of ward 11 said proposals seeking grants to repair roads and drainage has been gathering dust since a year. "We cannot give a deadline to repair roads," he rued.

Shivamogga: Monsoon plays havoc

The condition of roads in Shivamogga city is better compared to previous years; however, many roads are potholed. Shivamogga City Corporation sources said before the onset of the monsoon, the corporation began repairing potholes, but the monsoon arrived early and repairs carried out by the corporation could not last long. "Due to the monsoon, it is not possible to take up further road repairs. Work will start in October," he said.

The city corporation has not set a deadline for completion of pothole repairs and does not maintain data on the number of potholes in the city. There is also no dedicated fund allocated for road maintenance, the source added.

Kalaburagi: Machines on the job

The Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike has machines to fill up potholes and take up road repair work whenever it gets information about potholes and damages.

Executive engineer RP Jadhav said no potholes in the city remain for more than two days on city roads. He said the corporation spends around Rs 1 crore annually for filling up potholes and repairing roads.

President of Hyderabad Karnataka Yuva Horata Samithi Dr Raju Kulageri said there are over 80 potholes on the main road between Annapurna Cross and Basaveshwara Hospital, besides other stretches. The condition of the roads in the interior part of the city is the worst, he added.

(Inputs from: Bosky Khanna/ Bengaluru, Firoz Rozindar/ Vijayapura, Tushar A Majukar/ Belagavi, Prakash Samaga/ Udupi, Prajna GR/ Madikeri, BR Uday Kumar/ Hassan, Arpitha I/ Shivamogga, Ramakrishna Badsheshi/ Kalaburagi)

MUDA ex-chairman accused of releasing 848 sites without nod

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

FORMER MUDA chairman HV Rajeev has been accused of releasing 848 sites to the Jnanaganga Housing Cooperative Society, despite court orders against it, and getting the khata done in a day.

Former Mysore Urban Development Authority(MUDA) commissioner Natesh is already under the scanner for alleged illegal allotment of sites under 50:50 ratio. Incidentally, Rajeev is also the founder-chairman of the Jnanaganga Housing Cooperative Society. Two years after the sites were released, Natesh's letter to the Urban Development Department on Rajeev releasing the sites violating the court directions is making the rounds on social media platforms.

In his letter to the Urban Development Department on February 22, 2022, Natesh stated that the sites were released without his consent, though a few legal disputes were pending in connection with 252 acres and 10 guntas of land in Balehalli, Nagathihalli and Keragalli. The court had directed MUDA not to release the sites till further orders.

Natesh mentioned that the Jnanaganga Society developed the layout in violation of a 2018 order by MUDA and without his approval.

Natesh stated that people had filed complaints and a few had also written to the chief secretary. Though many had filed Right To Information applications, no reply could be given as Rajeev had kept the files in his office and not shared them with the commissioner.

Natesh alleged that Rajeev did not return the files related to the release of sites to Town Planning and other concerned departments. BJP MLA Srivasta, in the meantime, alleged that Rajeev joined Congress to shield himself from any action in the scam after that party came to power. The commissioner tried to fend off his responsibility by merely writing a letter to the government, he added.

Srivatsa criticised the government for not acting in the last two years. He alleged that the sites for Jnanaganga Society were released after taking no-objection certificates from the departments concerned even before completing civil works.

Haven't staked claim to the CM's post, says Satish

BELAGAVI: Putting speculation over staking claim to the CM post to rest, after his recent visit to New Delhi, PWD Minister **Satish Jarkiholi** on Sunday said, "I have not staked claim to the CM's post anywhere in my statements. There is no need to fight for this. Siddaramaiah will continue as chief minister." Speaking to the media in Belagavi on Sunday, Satish said, "Many leaders have already expressed their desire to become the CM of the state. There is no situation to change the CM. Siddaramaiah will continue leading the government." When asked about the 'CM Satish Jarkiholi' campaign on social media, he said, "... it might be the opinion of someone, but not of the entire state. This campaign may have taken off after many started claiming to be CM candidates. MB Patil, Shivanand Patil, RV Deshpande and others have expressed their opinions. But I have belief that justice will be in favour of Siddaramaiah. Thus, I am confident that the question of changing the CM will not arise. I have extended my full support to Siddaramaiah... I will start preparing to become CM, until 2028, and my supporters should wait."

Byrathi Suresh rules out change of leadership in state

MYSURU: Urban Development Minister **Byrathi Suresh** ruled out a change of leadership in the state, stating that the government would act tough against those involved in the MUDA scam. Speaking to the media after offering prayers at the Chamundeshwari Temple here, Suresh said the government has appointed the Justice PN Desai Judicial Commission to probe the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. He said the commission has begun an inquiry and is verifying more than one lakh documents. Suresh defended the suspension of former MUDA commissioner Dinesh, following a report from the departmental inquiry team headed by the officers that there is prima facie evidence against the officers for lapses in the MUDA. When asked about the government's failure to suspend former MUDA commissioner Natesh, Suresh said the government would not shield anyone involved in the scam. The Justice Desai Commission has already started looking at the serious lapses committed by the authority.

DKS extended help to Kamala's mom's entity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SHIVAKUMAR is going along with five members of his family, including his daughter Aishwarya, and the visit is likely to touch upon educational aspects as his family runs a number of educational institutions in Karnataka.

The family has ties with Kamala Harris' mother Shyamala Gopalan's Educational Foundation and Shivakumar too had extended his help to it, sources said. Now, they may take it forward, it added. The Foundation had greeted Shivakumar on his birthday on May 15. "Happy Birthday to DK Shivakumar from Shyamala Educational Foundation! Wishing a day filled with joy, blessings, and continued success to a visionary leader who shares our commitment to education and empowerment", it posted on 'X'. Shivakumar told reporters on Sunday, "There is nothing official about it as it is a family trip."

In his letter to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Shivakumar has stated that he will proceed to Washington and return on September 16.

Visibly excited, Shivakumar met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and briefed the latter on the developments in his department.

BJP WILL REGRET ITS STAND ON MUDA MATTER, SAYS MB PATIL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayapura

INDUSTRIES Minister **MB Patil** has firmly supported Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, dismissing any claims of the latter's involvement in the MUDA scam.

Speaking in Mamdapur village here on Sunday, Patil expressed confidence that the court would rule in Siddaramaiah's favour, ensuring justice.

He also criticised the BJP, stating that the party would eventually regret its stance on the matter. "Siddaramaiah will continue as chief minister, and we are all united behind him," said Patil, adding that the Congress top brass, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi, fully support Siddaramaiah's leadership.

In response to ongoing rumours about a leadership change, Patil reiterated that the chief minister's position is not vacant, dismissing any speculation about potential successors.

"Be it Satish Jarkiholi, MB Patil, or anyone else, the CM chair is not vacant," he said, addressing claims that MLA Lakshman Savadi had backed Satish for the post.

Patil also clarified recent discussions surrounding his visit to Delhi, explaining that his trip was intended to meet Union ministers and had no political undertones. "Is there a problem with going to Delhi? I went there to meet the Union ministers, and there is nothing wrong with that."

The Election Commission of India has granted actor Vijay's Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam the status of a registered but unrecognised political party in the state. Party chief Vijay said the application was submitted on February 2, and approval was granted recently

Continuous rain triggers flooding, landslides across north coastal AP

Residents evacuated from vulnerable areas; Schools given holiday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Visakhapatnam

THE continuous rainfall since Saturday night has caused widespread disruption across the north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, including Visakhapatnam, Anakapalle, Alluri Sitarama Raju and erstwhile Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts.

The downpour has led to overflowing water streams, landslides in hilly areas, road blockages, drainage overflows, and severe flooding in low-lying areas.

In Visakhapatnam, continuous heavy rain triggered landslides in Gopalapatnam, particularly near the Chinna Konda, endangering several homes. Under MLA Gana Babu's direction, officials have evacuated residents from the most vulnerable areas and moved them to safer locations. "We have successfully evacuated all individuals from the affected area and ensured their safety in rescue shelters. We have cut off power to all electric poles in the area to prevent further risk. We are currently in talks with engineers to explore options for diverting the water flow and mitigating potential damage in this area. Our goal is to prevent additional harm and minimise the impact of the situation," said Gana Babu. Despite these efforts, many homes remain at risk, prompting the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) to urge residents to stay alert. The area is home to several houses built along the hillside, increasing anxiety among locals.

A retaining wall in Gopalapatnam collapses due to heavy rainfall in Visakhapatnam on Sunday | EXPRESS

Meanwhile, heavy rainfall in Alluri Sitarama Raju district has caused significant damage, washing away bridges on canals and severing road links to over 30 villages.

In view of the heavy rainfall forecast for Monday, the district authorities of Parvathipuram Manyam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalle, and Alluri Sitarama Raju have declared a holiday for all educational institutions.

Due to overflowing water streams and 'geddas,' the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) has issued a warning to tribals in the Paderu area.

TN now global transit point for meth trade

SIDDHARTH PRABHAKAR
@ Chennai

TAMIL Nadu has emerged as a major transit point for international drug syndicates trafficking the banned narcotic methamphetamine or its precursor pseudoephedrine to Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Australia, where there is high demand, according to probes by Indian investigators.

Official data from the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Chennai zone show that the agency's seizures of meth bound for Sri Lanka jumped from 12kg in 2021 to 66kg in 2022 and 81kg in 2023, indicating an increase in transnational trade.

In 2024 alone, the NCB's and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence's (DRI) Chennai zones have seized 47kg of the drug with a street value of ₹360 crore in just four cases. In all four, the narcotic was sourced from Myanmar and en route to Sri Lanka. The latest seizure of 10kg was made by the DRI last week, leading to the arrest of six individuals and busting of an international syndicate.

Trafficking of meth is a highly lucrative business, said officials. It costs around ₹50,000-1,00,000 per kilogram in Manipur, around ₹7 lakh in Chennai and has a street price several times that in Sri Lanka and Malaysia. NCB pegs the drug's value at ₹10 crore per kg, while DRI says it's ₹5 crore.

Investigations show that the drug is sourced from Myanmar — part of the notorious Golden Triangle along with Thailand and Laos — and smuggled across the border to Manipur and sent to Tamil Nadu through human carriers on trains. It is then transported to Rameswaram, Thoothukudi or Nagapattinam through bus, train or car in special, concealed compartments. The drug is then sent to Sri Lanka across the porous maritime border via mid-sea transfers using fisher boats, officials added.

Based on arrests made in these cases, officials stated that syndicates employ a number of Sri Lankan Tamils living in TN's cities and refugee camps. Tamils as well as locals of Manipur are also involved in the trafficking, they noted, adding that this particular trade has picked up in the last five years.

Citing specific examples, an NCB official said that an accused arrested in a recent case was a vegetable trader based in Koyambedu, Chennai, with trade links to Sri Lanka. Similarly, in the DRI seizure last week, one of the accused was a Tamil who had done his schooling in Manipur before relocating to TN, sources said.

Investigators have identified the town Moreh in Manipur, a mere 30-40km from the India-Myanmar border, as an important location as it has a Tamil community.

Earthmovers plug the breaches in the Budameru canal at Santhi Nagar | EXPRESS

Budameru breaches plugged, Andhra CM seeks RS 6,800 crore aid from Centre

Vijayawada: Indian Army personnel, including the Engineering and Medical teams from the 54 Infantry Division, assisted the civil adminstration in successfully plugging the three breaches at the Budameru Rivulet, which caused flooding in Vijayawada last week. On the directives of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, works are under way to increase the height of the bunds as a precautionary measure. The Army personnel utilised 16,000 sandbags, Hesco bastions, and locally fabricated metal Gideon bags. With Pulivagu in G Kondur mandal in spate, Naidu has asked officials to be on high alert. Meanwhile, the State government has submitted the flood loss report to the Central government and sought Rs 6,880 crore as financial assistance, the Chief Minister said on Saturday night.

WHEN TAPS RUN DRY

Police use water cannons on protesters during a march led by the Youth Congress to the official residence of Water Resources Minister Roshi Augustine to protest against the disruption in water supply in Thiruvananthapuram city for the past four days. Kerala Water Authority (KWA) continued to extend the deadline for restoring supply following pipeline realignment work. A holiday was declared for educational institutions in the city limits on Monday. Kerala University has postponed all examinations scheduled on Monday on account of the water supply disruption | BP DEEPU

EXPRESS READ

Mentally-ill woman gang raped for months

Bhubaneswar/Dhenkanal: In a shocking incident, a 22-year-old mentally challenged woman was allegedly gang raped by several men for months at an abandoned building in Dhenkanal district's Bhapur village. Police arrested four persons for their alleged involvement in the crime. They were identified as Babuli Naik (40), Biranchi Moharana (32), Abinash Parida (24) and Jiban Parida (27), all from Mahulapunji village. Initial investigation revealed the victim's father was also mentally challenged and they were living near the staircase of the abandoned building. It is suspected that at least six to seven persons were involved in the heinous crime. ENS

Five pilgrims swept away in Kollidam river

Thanjavur: Five pilgrims from Chennai who came for the car procession of Poondi Madha Basilica in Thanjavur district were washed away in the Kollidam while taking bath on Sunday. The bodies of three of them were retrieved. Sources say a group of 17 people, after visiting the church in Velankanni, reached Poondi on Sunday morning to participate in the car procession. Tragedy struck the group as some of them decided to take a bath, around noon, prior to visiting the basilica. While taking bath in the river passing near the basilica, five men waded towards a deep part and were soon washed away. ENS

Muslim woman takes lead in installing Ganesha idol

B THIPPERUDRAPPA
@ Chikkamagaluru

PROMOTING communal harmony during Ganesha Chaturthi, a Muslim woman in NR Pura town of Chikkamagaluru district has been taking the lead for years to install the idol in town, involving people from all religions.

Jubedha, a former president and present member of the NR Pura Pattan Panchayat, has been the president of Vinayaka Seva Samiti for the last 15 years.

Hindus, Muslims and Christians are part of the Samiti, and Jubedha's leadership, they install the Ganesha idol -- which has come to be known as Sarva Dharmagala Souharda Ganapati (all-religion Ganesha) -- for three days."

The Samiti members perform puja together as per Hindu traditions and organise cultural programmes on all three days.

Jubedha told *TNIE* that she is displeased with politicians stoking communal disturbance in the name of religion for their selfish ends. She stressed on the need to spread the message of communal harmony among young, impressionable minds.

Jubedha has been president of Vinayaka Seva Samiti, which organises the festival, for the last 15 years

The idol is installed at Rajivnagara locality of the town and the event has only grown in popularity over the years. "My main objective is to assemble children of Hindus, Muslims and Christians in one place during the idol installation ceremony and inculcate in them the feelings of oneness and to send out a message that they should rise above caste, religion, creed and cult. God is one to all... I have been trying to pass on this message to the youth, who are the hope of tomorrow," she said.

CPM unhappy with ADGP episode, but won't ditch Pinarayi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

WARY of the political damage ADGP M R Ajith Kumar's meeting with the RSS leadership would cause, the CPM has distanced itself from the episode, calling it an issue that does not concern the party but the government. However, the CPM made it clear that it would resist attempts by the Opposition UDF to derive political mileage by alleging that the meeting was held at the behest of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to scuttle the Thrissur Pooram and give BJP the advantage.

The stance of the party was spelt out by CPM state secretary M V Govindan, who termed UDF's attempts to drag the CM into the controversy as "absurd". Speaking to reporters in Kasaragod on Sunday, Govindan expressed, though indirectly, the party's displeasure over the controversy. "Do you think I am pleased?" he shot back when reporters asked him about the LDF ally CPI's displeasure over the senior police officer's meeting with the RSS functionaries.

"Who someone meets is not our concern. The attempt to link this with the CPM is baseless. Everyone knows where the CPM stands on the matter," said Govindan. The CPM leader said the RSS was an organisation that was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of CPM members, underscoring the ideological opposition between the two groups.

Govindan also accused the UDF of forging ties with the BJP and pointed out that the UDF votes had drifted to the BJP in Thrissur during the Lok Sabha elections. He also criticised the practice of exaggerating minor incidents, using the phrase "turning a goat into a dog" to describe the Opposition's tactics.

Meanwhile, the home department feels there is nothing unusual in ADGP's personal meetings with RSS leaders. However, considering the sentiments within the CPM, the government is weighing its options on the next possible course of action, including moving the ADGP out of his current position. The government is also likely to come out with an explanation on the whole controversy surrounding Ajith Kumar.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan alleged that Ajith Kumar met Sangh Parivar leaders as an emissary of the CM.

FIR against prison DIG, 13 cops over torture

Vellore: The CB-CID police registered an FIR on Saturday against 14 prison officials, including Vellore Range Prison DIG R Rajalakshmi and Additional Superintendent Abdul Rahman in connection with the alleged harassment and torture of a prisoner S Sivakumar sentenced to life at the Vellore Central Prison. This follows a report submitted by the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Vellore, confirming that Sivakumar was subjected to torture after being forced to do household work at the residence of Rajalakshmi. The Madras High Court, on Thursday, directed the CB-CID to file criminal cases against the prison officials involved in torturing the prisoner. ENS

KSPC aspirants demand 4 months for preparation

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

EDUCATIONAL experts and aspirants of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) sought a four-month extension of the re-test of the Gazetted Probationers' examination. With approximately 15 lakh aspirants preparing for positions like PDO, Village Administration Officer and Gazette Probationers, there is growing concern about the government's act of hastily conducting the re-exam, which might ruin the careers of the candidates.

Aspirants who have formed study circles on platforms like Telegram, and WhatsApp have decided to voice their dissatisfaction again the Congress government in the next elections if it fails to give a four-month time period for preparation. "If the CM is concerned about the youths of the state and ensuring equal opportunities to all, he should grant us additional four months for preparation," said a KPSC aspirant from a reputed institution in Chandra Layout.

Vinod MS, another aspirant, also echoed similar sentiments, stating that not only aspirants, but their families will also hold vengeance against the government's bad move. "Aspirants and their families together, who are a total of 50 to 60 lakh voters will protest against the government's decision," he added.

Vinay Kumar GB, Founder of Insights IAS opined that he would lead a campaign and approach people in power and explain to them about the preparation process and what the aspirants are going through. "A lot of research goes behind setting a question paper and it takes time. Holding exams in a hurry will give rise to suspicion among students about the quality of the exam may cause fear. This apart, it will demoralise the students from a Kannada background," said Kumar and stated that he would lead a campaign to reform KPSC and appeal to the state government to release the calendar of events like notification, exam date, interview and others in advance like Union Public Service Commission.

Kantha Kumar, All Karnataka State Students' Association, said the government already wasted time by holding exams in a hurry. Such exams are held on Sundays but for the next three months, almost all Sundays have one or the other government exams.

> **If the CM is concerned about the youths of the state and ensuring equal opportunities to all, he should grant us additional four months for preparation**
>
> KPSC aspirant

The mangled remains of the car that hit a stationary bus near Pirapanvalasai of Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu on Saturday night | EXPRESS

Five, including two kids, die in TN road accident

Ramanathapuram: Five of a family, including two children, died after the car they were travelling in rammed a stationary TNSTC bus near Pirapanvalasai in Ramanathapuram on Saturday night. According to police, Rajesh (33) and his wife Pandiselvi (28) had travelled to Ramanathapuram in a rented car for treatment of their newborn. They were accompanied by their older children Dharsini Rani (8) and Pranavika (4), and Pandiselvi's parents, Senthil Manoharan (70) and Angaleswari (58). The accident took place when the family was on its way back to Rameswaram. Rajesh, his daughters and in-laws died on the spot. Driver Britto, Pandiselvi and her newborn escaped with injuries. ENS

Sumalatha has task cut out to build BJP in Mandya

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

FORMER Mandya MP and actor Sumalatha Ambareesh has said she will work towards strengthening BJP in Mandya, a region where the party has a very limited presence.

"I want to build BJP in Mandya, where the party is weak. BJP in Mandya needs strong leaders to build the party," she said. The party had for years placed Assembly constituencies in Mandya district in the C category, indicating that the party is weak in these seats and the party stood third most of the time.

Sumalatha, who served as an independent MP in the last Lok Sabha term, joined BJP in April this year. But she was not fielded in the recent Lok Sabha elections. Despite this setback, she remains optimistic and dedicated to her new role in BJP. "I am happy to be working for BJP," she said.

Her decision to align with BJP marked a significant development in the political dynamics of Mandya, a constituency traditionally dominated by JDS and Congress.

In the recent Lok Sabha polls, where JDS and BJP had an alliance, JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy contested from the Mandya seat and won comfortably.

Sumalatha is the wife of late actor and politician Ambareesh. Sumalatha's entry into politics was seen as a continuation of her husband's legacy.

She aims to leverage her local support to strengthen the party's organisational structure. She is emphasising on cultivating strong leaders within the local BJP units to address the party's weaknesses in the region.

Newborn's body found in school bag in Kerala

Thrissur: The body of a newborn baby was found abandoned in a school bag at Thrissur Railway station's foot overbridge on Sunday. It was at 8.30am that a cleaning staff found an abandoned school bag in the corner of the foot overbridge near the lift. Soon, she informed the Railway Police, who reached the spot and opened the bag and found the body of a newborn baby wrapped in diaper. The railway police have registered a case. According to the police officials, "The baby was only two-days old and it is suspected that it was born prematurely. There was a band on the hand of the baby indicating that the birth was in a hospital." ENS

EDITORIAL

The climate bill has finally come due. Right now it is being paid by the smallest and most vulnerable. Small island communities are among the first to pay the price of climate change but no one will escape forever

Baron Waqa

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

POLITICAL PARTIES MUST INTEGRATE GREEN FOCUS INTO POLL AGENDAS

As India marches towards its goal of Viksit Bharat with rapid economic growth, one of the most pressing issues—rising pollution levels to environmental degradation—is conspicuous by its absent in electoral agendas. A study of air quality data collected from January to June this year by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air shows 15 of the hundred most polluted cities in India are in Haryana. The study also reveals that all Haryana cities exceeded the safe limits for PM10 level set by India's National Ambient Air Quality Standard and the World Health Organization.

Haryana is just a month away from choosing a new government. The state is a classic example of how rapid industrialisation and urbanisation can worsen pollution levels. Yet, no party has made this scourge a part of its political discourse. Perhaps, Indian parties can learn from how political outfits in other nations contribute to society by making impactful interventions. For example, political parties in western countries have played an important role in drawing public attention to environmental disasters and the need for adopting a sustainable lifestyle.

India has been witnessing extreme weather events as a result of climate change. A rare convective activity that combined cloudburst and high wind uprooted over one lakh trees in Telangana earlier this week. The town of Joshimath in Uttarakhand is sinking. Indiscriminate felling of trees and construction activity is playing havoc with the fragile Himalayas, which are witnessing frequent landslides. The melting glaciers and dying rivers are threatening life and livelihood. India's monsoons have become erratic and in recent years, extreme rainfall has led to catastrophic floods. Poor urban planning, wetland encroachment, and deforestation have compounded the impact of floods. India's long coastline makes it vulnerable to cyclones whose increasing frequency has been largely attributed to rising sea surface temperatures. The time for action is now. Recurring disasters underscore deeper issues, namely unplanned and unchecked development. This, combined with weak environmental regulations, has spelt disaster. India needs stronger environmental laws that must be enforced strictly. A good start is to get political parties to integrate environmental policies with their electoral agenda. The voters need to demand their right to clean air and water, and sustainable cities and towns.

KERALA ON RIGHT TRACK TO IMPROVE BUSINESS EASE

KERALA sprang a surprise in the latest Ease of Doing Business Reforms ranking, released by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday, by topping the chart. The state, long pilloried for its industry-unfriendly character and recurring labour strikes, has been taking proactive steps in recent times to promote businesses and woo investors. And these efforts seem to be paying off. Of the 10 citizen-centric reform areas and 20 business-centric areas considered for the ranking, Kerala topped in implementing seven citizen-centric reforms and two business-centric reforms.

The two business-centric reforms where it emerged as a top performer are: facilitating utility permits for business and paying taxes. The citizen-centric reforms are: online single window system, certificate issuance by urban local bodies, certificate issuance by revenue department, providing utility permits, public distribution system, transport, and employment exchange.

To put things in perspective, Kerala's performance in the more important Ease of Doing Business ranking (not to be confused with the latest EODB-reforms rankings) is still below par, though it has been making progress. Kerala stood at the 15th place in 2022, a remarkable jump from the 28th position in 2019. While Kerala's gains over the past two decades in terms of human development indicators—high life expectancy at birth, low death rate, balanced male-female ratio, high literacy rate, and low poverty incidence—are commendable, its image as a "business-unfriendly" state was coming in the way of attracting investments. Also, the delay in clearances, especially at the local self-government level, often frustrated investors, especially small and medium players. Big investors, however, do not face such delays as they have access to the powers that be—which highlights the disturbing lack of a level playing field.

The ranking shows Kerala is moving in the right direction, slowly plugging the bottlenecks at various levels. Also, it will help the state showcase itself and tell investors it means business. The Communist government has sent out the message that it wants businesses to come so they can create jobs for youngsters who are growing restless due to lack of opportunities. Kerala still has a long way to go in terms of providing a good environment for businesses to thrive, but it must be said that it has begun well. And as they say, well begun is half done. Now, the government should ensure that the momentum is not lost.

QUICK TAKE

KEEP CLOSE EYE ON MPOX

INDIA has reported the first mpox case (earlier called monkeypox) in several months. The WHO recently declared the outbreak of a new variant of the virus a public health emergency of international concern. India detected 30 cases of an older strain between 2022 and March 2024. The disease, which at times can be fatal, has a few recommended vaccines. But the vaccines take a few weeks to become effective. There is no need to panic. But India should stock up on the vaccines, step up surveillance of travellers from central and western Africa, where the disease is endemic, and increase awareness about the infection.

Victims must be accurately named, not only for reasons of historic veracity, but also to expose and apply pressure on their oppressors and aggressors

WHY ACCURATE NAMING IS SUCH A BIG DEAL

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE

Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOURAV ROY

WHEN it comes to regime changes, Leftists, it would seem, make common cause with Islamists, little realising that the latter only think of them as useful idiots, easy to dispose of after the expiry of their use-by date. As we have seen in the recent violence in Bangladesh, when not just Hindus or Awami League supporters but Leftists were the targets of systematic, even murderous, ferocity.

But what we may not have realised is how seculars are similarly corralled and marshalled to silence violence against Hindus, not only in Bangladesh or India, but in the US, Europe, Australia, or elsewhere. The "H" word is anathema and, under all circumstances, must be camouflaged.

If Hindus are attacked, killed, abducted, raped, held for ransom or extortion, the appropriate substitute is 'minorities'. If their temples are attacked, objects of worship or reverence vandalised, then other victims of murderous mobs, such as Christians or Buddhists or 'tribals' must also be mentioned in the same breath. The civilised antidote to the spilling of Hindu blood, it would seem, is not black ink but whitewash.

The same illogic is applied on both sides of the subcontinent. Take the case of Anubhav Sinha's Netflix series on the hijacking of IC 814. A leading media person and commentator, by no means a Hindutva-supporter, has called it "an expensive PR job for the ISI". The BJP media cell outraged over the falsification of the hijackers' names. This, however, is not entirely true. The hijackers did use fake Hindu names, such as "Bhola" and "Shankar". Also non-religious, even nonsensical, nicknames such as "Doctor", "Chief", and "Burger".

But this only ends up masking the real identity of the hijackers. Naïve viewers may think they were Indians or Hindus. Why were the real names of the hijackers—Sunny Ahmed Qazi, Shakir, Mistri Zahoor Ibrahim, Shahid Akhtar Sayed, and Ibrahim Athar—not revealed? Or that they were Pakistani operatives, controlled by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) or its proxies? Several fact-checkers who weighed in on the side of Anubhav Sinha and his team do not reveal this. The geopolitical, strategic, Pakistani, Islamist angles in the story are suppressed.

On the other hand, leading Muslim opposition leaders have even asked why people are objecting to *IC 814* when they accepted fiction as fact in *The Kashmir Files*. Surely they don't expect terrorists and victims of terrorism to be treated in the same manner? But, who knows, perhaps they do. One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter, as the cliché goes. Or, to cite another cliché, terrorism has no religion. Perfectly true, except when it means never mention the terrorist's religion, especially if it is Islam or Sikhism.

The whitewashing, let us admit, is there for all to see, but not exactly in the manner that it has been called out. Instead, the ploy that we observe in many previous Bollywood blockbusters is to humanise terrorists, gloss over the Islamist religious ideology that supports their actions, mitigate their murderous violence and disregard for human lives, and instead amplify their gestures of kindness and friendship. The sharp sword held over the neck of the victim is invisibilised, as is the threat to kill one hostage at a time if demands are not met. Instead, the singing, joking, or calling a hostage sister and gifting her a shawl, is what is emphasised.

Today, a similar whitewashing is playing out in another yet-to-be released movie, Kangana Ranaut's *Emergency*. Because Sikhs can never be terrorists or assassins of those they were paid and pledged to protect—according to Sikh religious authorities who have asked for its banning. As for Hindus? Remember Gulzar's *Maachis* (1996)? The Khalistani terrorists, backed by ISI, are shown as romantic and misguided heroes.

The "real" culprit, who plants bombs in buses, played by Om Puri, is called "Sanatan". I've never heard anyone being named thus, but Gulzar decides to use it to mark the source of evil. No one noticed or objected to it then. But today, it shows the bigger anti-Hindu ecosystem that supports and promotes filmmakers and writers. From early "progressives" like Khwaja Ahmad Abbas and Mahboob Khan to our own Salim-Javed and, yes, later to lesser mortals like Anurag Kashyap and Anubhav Sinha.

The common target of Islamists, Leftists, and seculars alike is what used to be called "Hindu communalism" and is today known as Hindutva. But in the end, it is not the ideology of political Hinduism that suffers as much as ordinary Hindus all over the world. It is they who bear the brunt of violence and hatred; it is they who are demonised and dehumanised; it is they who become expendables, cannon fodder for violent ideologies and ideologues.

Now the seculars in Bangladesh are pressuring the seculars in India not to use the "H" word when it comes to the violence and atrocities of the regime change. Don't talk about the killing of Hindus, they say, don't tarnish the popular movement against Sheikh Hasina as either Islamist or CIA-sponsored. Portray it as a peaceful, progressive and secular people's movement, led by brave students from all communities, against an unpopular dictator. The dirty secret that is being denied is that Jihadis are oftentimes paid for their mercenary atrocities by being permitted to loot, kill, rape, or hold to ransom Hindus and other targeted groups like the Yazidis or Armenians.

We fell for this earlier, by not publicising or internationalizing the genocide of Hindus in Bangladesh during the 1971 liberation of the country from Pakistan. Today, leading journalists are asking India not to take up the cause of Hindus in Bangladesh. But this is wrong both morally and strategically.

Victims must be accurately named, not only for reasons of historic veracity, but also to expose and apply pressure on their oppressors and aggressors. Wherever and whenever Hindus are targeted, we must name the victims and speak up for them. We should do this whether we are communalists, seculars, or leftists—as we should for all victims of religious, ethnic, and other forms of violence.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

THE EARLY LIFE OF A SECULAR SAINT

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

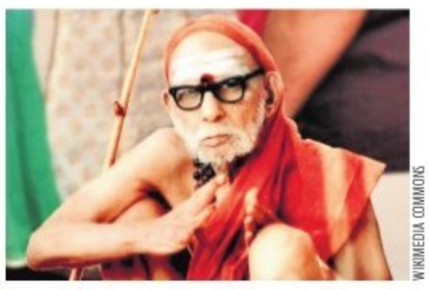
IN a follow-up to last week's story about Adi Shankara, I would like to share some details about a 20th-century 'secular saint' in Shankara's tradition. Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati (1894-1994) was the 'Mahaswami of Kanchi', the 68th Shankaracharya of the ancient Kamakoti Matha, an important religious institution in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu. He remains a cult figure even today for devotees. His birth star was Anuradha, also called Anusha, and is observed every month as a festival in homes across India and the world by sections of the Indian diaspora. There is a Manimandapam or memorial temple to him in New Jersey, US.

The Mahaswami believed that 'God is One', and saved the mosque next to his Matha from demolition in the 1960s from the then Congress CM of Tamil Nadu, M Bhaktavatsalam. At the same time, he played a key role in reviving the study of the Vedas, equipping society with properly learned priests to serve homes and temples, and teaching the public lost devotional verses. He pioneered the conservation of neglected temples and inspired the building of new ones. Many devotees personally testify online to his miracles of healing.

While deeply learned, he was simple and accessible, and reportedly had a wicked sense of humour. He walked barefoot for miles across India in padayatras. Carnatic music was his grand passion, and great musicians of the day flocked to him for spiritual insights into the compositions they sang. Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya came to Kanchipuram and sang North Indian bhajans for him. One of the Mahaswami's protegees was M S Subbulakshmi, and when she was invited to sing at the UN General Assembly in 1966, he composed the Sanskrit hymn 'Maitrim Bhajata' for her, calling for world peace.

His admirers included a wide swathe of society across religions, from the very poor to the rich and powerful, from canteen boys to kings. Indira Gandhi, King Constantine and Princess Irene of Greece, and King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain were among his fans. The Dalai Lama called him "the only monk of the century".

But this great sage had a heartbreaking start. Swaminathan, or 'Ginni' (meaning 'parrot') as he was called at home, was the pet of his family, in a small town in the Madras Presidency. He sang like a bird, topped in Bible class at Mission school, and was as happy as a normal little boy could be, safe in the love of his parents and siblings. His father, Subrahmanya Iyer, was a school supervisor for the British government and had him admitted to the English school to give Ginni and his brothers the best possible modern education available. Ginni's mother Mahalakshmi was of distinguished descent. Her long-ago ancestor was the great 17th century musicologist Venkatamakhin, who had mapped Carnatic ragas into the grid called the *72 Melakarta*. Another ancestor was Govinda Dikshitar, who had been a minister of the Nayak kings of Thanjavur and had worked very hard to improve the conditions of temples and ghats by the river Kaveri. Music ran in her blood and she taught Ginni to sing in many *ragas*.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati was the 'Mahaswami of Kanchi', the 68th Shankaracharya of the ancient Kamakoti Matha. While deeply learned, he was simple and accessible, and reportedly had a wicked sense of humour

"Listeners should know how to enjoy a song whether it is in a light or weighty raga," she taught Ginni. "One should be broad-minded because although tastes may differ, music is everybody's birthright. A song should touch the heart. That is the yardstick, not anything else. *Raga Todi* has weight while *Sindhu Bhairavi* is light. Both touch the heart."

A thought struck Ginni. "Why do all concerts end with a *Mangalam*?" he asked.

"A *Mangalam* is a blessing," explained his mother. "It is in *Raga Madhyamavati* which is linked to *Raga Kharaharapriya*, Sri Rama's favourite *raga*. It is like a return gift from the musician to the listeners, wishing them well-being and repentance for any sins, knowing or unknowing."

Ginni grew particularly fond of the songs of 18th century scholar-saint Muthuswamy Dikshitar, whose pen-name was 'Guru Guha'. This meant 'Kartikeya', the same as Ginni's name 'Swaminathan'. "He really describes the gods well," Ginni told his mother. "I can almost see them when you sing his songs."

That year, Ginni's father took the family to a town nearby where the 66th Shankaracharya of Kanchipuram was on a visit. The family looked up to him as their spiritual guide and went to seek his blessings. The Shankaracharya's eye was caught by Ginni. "Come closer, child," he said, and Ginni, not shy in the least, came forward at once.

The seer asked Ginni a number of questions about prayer, practice and music. He was greatly surprised by Ginni's confident, precocious answers. Ginni too found him deeply interesting. There was a gentle, deep air about the seer that impressed him. A line from Bible class came to mind: "For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled."

A few months later, news came that the 66th Sankaracharya had passed away of age. The new Shankaracharya, a very young man, was Swaminathan's cousin. But he, too, died of a sudden sickness, and Ginni, to his absolute shock, was taken away to be installed as the 68th Shankaracharya.

Kneeling on the floor of the cart he was taken away in, he repeated the only mantra he knew, 'Rama, Rama', in fright. His parents were informed and could not object. They were allowed to see him one last time, already in the shaven-headed, ochre-clad dress of a sanyasi, and left weeping.

How this little boy, taken at just 13, overcame his homesickness and evolved into a great saint is a deeply poignant tale, which I will tell another time, if you wish.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Census fears

Ref: *Caste moulds the RSS colossus* (Sep 8). There is nothing wrong in the RSS changing its policies on caste census and reservation. The RSS is not against devolution of power among the socially deprived sections. But its fear of parties misusing the census to split the Hindu vote bank is not unfounded.

G Nataraja Perumal, Belagavi

Political skulduggery

Backward castes deserve their crumbs of power purely on the basis of welfarism, not for the purpose of divisive parochialism. Using caste as a unifier is preferred to misusing it as part of political skulduggery, as caste-free society is invisible in near future.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Flexible RSS

RSS has proved to be more accommodating of the diversity in India than the BJP. Be it the joint statements issued to support caste reservation or giving the call for an end to the Manipur violence. In this era of Modi 3.0, with the BJP falling short of the majority mark and the growing hostility of the RSS towards Yogi Adityanath, it will be interesting to see how this parent-child relationship is maintained.

Aparna Vats, Bengaluru

Mediate violence

Ref: *6 more dead in Manipur violence, CM meets guv* (Sep 8). The death of six more people in Manipur is unfortunate. The clashes have resulted in the deaths of at least 220 individuals. To put an end to this violence, PM Narendra Modi must visit Manipur and mediate between the two communities.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Justice delayed

Ref: *Delay in execution agonising for death row convicts: SC* (Sep 8). After the president., the Supreme Court has also expressed displeasure in the delay in delivering justice. However, it is unfortunate that neither of them have suggested any remedy to eliminate the delay. First and foremost, the number of adjournments allowed in a case should be capped at three. Similarly, whenever the first appellate court upholds the lower court verdict, no further appeal should be allowed.

Unnikrishnan Nair, Kuthiathode

Paralympic inspiration

Ref: *Lost leg to insurgency, not Sema spirit* (Sep 8). Hats off to 40-year-old soldier Hokato H Sema for winning a bronze medal in the Paris Paralympics after the loss of a leg in 2002 in a counter-insurgency operation in J&K. He is a source of inspiration, resilience and determination to all.

N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
Many youngsters lost their lives due to mismanagement in the excise constable recruitment process in Jharkhand. These are not accidents, these are murders committed for the greed for votes.

Randeep Singh Surjewala @rssurjewala
Today the farmers, youth and labourers of the country are feeling cheated. Today every section of the state is troubled. Unemployment is at its peak.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The news of a minister of the UP BJP government occupying the land of retired soldiers and poor people in Meerut is shameful.

India may have first mpox case; govt says don't panic

Patient's samples being tested to confirm virus, contact-tracing on

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

A young male patient, who recently travelled from a country currently experiencing mpox (monkeypox) transmission, has been identified as a suspect case of mpox, a zoonotic virus. The patient has been isolated in a designated hospital and is currently stable.

Mpox is a viral disease that can be spread between people, or between people and certain animals with infected skin or body fluids.

On August 14, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the recent outbreak of the virus, which can spread through contact, as a public health emergency of international concern, after a new variant of the virus was identified. mpox is endemic in Central and Western Africa.

In its statement, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare advised that there was no need for panic. The government has so far not revealed the identity of the patient and state where he is isolated.

"Samples from the patient are being tested to confirm the presence of mpox. The case is being managed in line with established protocols, and contact tracing is ongoing to identify potential sources and assess the impact within the country," a government statement said.

The development of this case is consistent with the earlier risk assessment conducted by the NCDC. "The country is fully prepared to deal with such isolated travel-related cases and has robust measures in place to manage and mitigate any potential risk," said the ministry's statement.

Symptoms of mpox include a rash that forms blisters and then crusts over, fever and swollen lymph nodes. The illness is usually mild, and most infected individuals recover within a few weeks without treatment.

The incubation period (time interval between infection and onset of symptoms) is two weeks but can be ranged up to three weeks. Its communicability is 1-2 days before its rash or scabs subside. Death due to mpox is a rare case.

According to officials, mpox infections are generally self-limiting lasting between two and four weeks. Patients usually recover with supportive medical care and management.

Rising cases, worldwide concern

According to WHO
99,176 mpox cases and **208** deaths reported from 116 countries since 2022

Last year, the reported cases increased significantly

The number of cases reported so far this year has exceeded last year's total with more than **15,600** cases and 537 deaths

WHAT IS THE LATEST THREAT

- Viral zoonosis, mpox has symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although clinically less severe
- Infections generally last between two and four weeks
- Patients usually recover with supportive medical care and management
- Transmission happens through prolonged and close contact with an infected person

Biden's last: India, US swap turns to host Quad summit

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA and the US "swapped" hosting the Quad Summit. President Joe Biden will now host the event in his hometown of Delaware on September 21. The White House is expected to issue a statement.

A source said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian PM Antony Albanese and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida will attend the summit. This will be President Biden's last Quad Summit, and possibly Japan PM Kishida's too, as they aren't going to contest any further elections.

India is set to host the Quad Summit in 2025, and it's likely that the then US President — either Donald Trump or Kamala Harris — will embark on their first state visit to India. According to a source, Modi could meet both the Presidential candidates, Trump and Harris, while in the US.

Notably, India was looking at hosting the Quad in January in Delhi, around the Republic Day. However, there was an issue in scheduling the dates with the US President. Later India went to polls, so it couldn't host the four-nation meet.

While in the US, Modi will also address the Indian diaspora at Nassau Coliseum in New York's Long Island, which is expected to be attended by thousands of Indians. On September 23, he will attend the 'Summit of the Future' at the UN.

However, the PM will not address the UN General Assembly this time, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is expected to give a speech.

There are reports of Bangladesh reaching out to India for a possible meeting between the chief adviser of their interim government, Prof Muhammad Yunus and PM Modi while in New York.

Presidential candidates

India is set to host the Quad Summit in 2025, and it is likely that the then US President — either Donald Trump or Kamala Harris — will embark on their first state visit to India. According to a source, Modi could meet both the Presidential candidates, Trump and Harris, while in the US.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

Policy Shift

NON-UNIFORMED OFFICERS MAY NOT HEAD CAPF

The government of India is likely to change the policy for the appointment of the heads of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), namely CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, NSG, SSB and Assam Rifles. Sources said that the government may decide against posting non-uniformed officers as heads of CAPFs. All future appointments are likely to be made following this policy, they said. There are currently two such officers heading these police organisations – Anish Dayal Singh as the Director General of the CRPF and Rahul Rasgotra as DG of ITBP. They were drawn from the Intelligence Bureau to head the uniformed CAPFs. Sources said both these officers are likely to be given new assignments and the slots may be filled with uniformed officers. According to sources, Anish Dayal may be sent to the National Technical Research Organisation, where he is likely to take over either as an Advisor or as Chairman in place of Arun Sinha, whose term comes to an end next month. The government is in the process of effecting a major shake-up in the top leadership of CAPFs. It has already appointed Daljit Singh Chaudhary as DG, BSF and Rajwinder Singh Bhatti as DG, CISF. Besides finding the replacements of Anish Dayal and Rasgotra in CRPF and ITBP, respectively, among other top appointments likely to be made soon are that of the DG of the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad. A hunt is also on to find a new DG, SSB, a post vacated by Daljit Singh.

Bihar Buzz

NITISH PRESSES ALLY BJP FOR EARLY STATE POLLS

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar wants the state assembly elections to be advanced. The term of the present state assembly ends in November next year. But Nitish wants the election to be held early next year, preferably along with the election for the Delhi state assembly, if possible. The Delhi assembly elections are likely to be held either in late January or the first week of February. According to sources, Nitish is keen to improve his party's assembly tally, which has fallen steadily over the last three elections from 115 seats in 2010 to 71 in 2015 down to 43 seats in the current assembly. The JD(U) had attributed the steep fall in its numbers in the last assembly elections to the presence of a large number of candidates of Chirag Paswan's party against his candidates. There were also murmurs of the BJP, which was Nitish's ally, lending support to Chirag's candidates. Sources in the JD(U) said the party does not want a similar situation to arise in the next election. Pollster-turned-politician Prashant Kishor plans to launch a political party – Jan Suraaj – on Gandhi Jayanti next month. One of the reasons for the JD(U)'s move for an early election is to deny Kishor a chance to play the spoiler. Nitish feels that the JD(U)'s numbers in the current assembly do not reflect the party's strength in the state and its performance in the last election was an aberration that needs to be corrected.

Chadha says AAP-Cong keen on alliance, talks progressing positively

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AFTER hitting hurdles earlier, the Congress-AAP seat-sharing talks for the Haryana assembly polls appear to be moving in a positive direction.

The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, hinting at a breakthrough, said on Sunday that both the parties are working to forge an alliance.

Chadha said both the parties are trying to keep aside their individual aspirations. While they are yet to reach a consensus, the talks are progressing in a "positive" direction, he said, adding however that AAP will not proceed with the alliance "if there is no win-win situation."

According to sources, the talks had come to an impasse earlier since AAP considered certain seats "non-negotiable." The party is keen on at least one seat in the Kurukshetra region and the Kalayat seat.

Chadha told media that talks are happening in a positive atmosphere. "Both the parties are working towards contesting the elections together, prioritising unity and the demands of the people, while setting aside individual party and candidate aspirations," he said.

Both the parties are working towards contesting the elections together, prioritising unity and the demands of the people, while setting aside individual party and candidate aspirations

Raghav Chadha, AAP Rajya Sabha MP

The MP, however, refused to divulge details of the seat-sharing talks held so far. "A ball-by-ball commentary cannot be done on the seat-sharing arrangement. Both the parties have the desire and hope to form an alliance," he added.

The talks were halted on Friday as the AAP stuck to its demand for 10 seats, while the Congress was unwilling to concede more than five seats.

Keep quiet: BJP to Brij Bhushan as Haryana poll heat peaks

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AMID heat and dust over Haryana Assembly polls, the BJP has reportedly advised Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, former president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), to refrain from making frequent statements about wrestlers that could escalate tensions ahead of the polls.

Singh's recent remarks, including controversial statements about wrestlers and allegations of a conspiracy by Congress, have drawn criticism. Singh, who has faced accusations of sexual harassment from prominent athletes like Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, claimed these allegations are part of a Congress plot.

He claimed that Phogat and Bajrang Punia were manipulated by Congress, particularly as Phogat joined the party.

Sources said the BJP central leadership has had to respond to the growing controversy and reportedly instructed Singh to avoid further inflammatory remarks, particularly those involving athletes. The move follows the BJP's decision not to award Singh the ticket for the recent Lok Sabha elections, instead selecting his son.

Rahul on 3-day US visit, says looking forward to 'insightful conversations'

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

LEADER of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has begun his three-day visit to the United States on Sunday, during which he will hold "meaningful discussions and insightful conversations" to further strengthen the bond between India and America.

"I am truly delighted by the warm welcome I have received in Dallas, Texas, USA, from the Indian diaspora and members of the Indian Overseas Congress," Gandhi said in a Facebook post, adding, "I eagerly look forward to engaging in meaningful discussions and insightful conversations that will further strengthen the bond between our two nations."

The Congress MP was welcomed at the airport by Sam Pitroda, chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, and members of the Indian diaspora.

On the course of the visit, Gandhi will hold meetings and interactions in Washington DC and Dallas, including at the University of Texas. In Dallas, Gandhi will interact with students of Texas University, academicians, and community people.

"We will have a large community gathering. We will meet some technocrats and also have a dinner with the leaders from the Dallas area," Pitroda said.

The Indian Overseas Congress chief further said that Rahul Gandhi will travel to Washington DC, where they plan to hold similar interactions with a variety of people, including think-tanks, national press club and others.

Controversy last year

During his six-day US visit last year, Rahul Gandhi had sparked a controversy with his remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the new Parliament building and the alleged attacks on constitutional values and minorities in India. In San Francisco, he said there are people in India who think they know more than God and PM Modi is "one such specimen."

EXPRESS READ

NHAI revises norms for plantation along highways

Observing that the removal of trees is one of the 'necessary evils' in the process of development, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has amended its policy for plantations along the national highways to ensure higher survival rate of saplings and their regular maintenance. The amended document says that the responsibilities for undertaking plantation work must be specified in the detailed project report. Avenue and median plantations may be included within the scope of contractor or concessionaire to extent possible, read the SOP for plantation released recently. To ensure adequate funds, the revised policy states that the cost of proposed plantation or transplantation works should be done as precisely as possible by assessing the number of trees that can be planted in the land available.

India plans to bring more cheetahs from Kenya

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

INDIA has renewed its interest in bringing a fresh batch of cheetahs from Kenya, a country in the northern hemisphere with seasonal patterns similar to that of India, officials said.

The move comes after India faced hiccups in conservation of cheetahs brought from southern hemisphere countries, such as South Africa and Namibia as a few of the big cats died.

India has agreed to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kenya. A draft of the MoU has been sent to the legal and treaties division of the Ministry of External Affairs for vetting.

Sourcing 8-10 cheetahs from Kenya was put on hold after that country changed stance in February this year. "We were ready to sign an MoU, but a last-minute change of mind on the Kenyan side led to putting the process on hold," said a senior officer from the team that visited Kenya in August.

Earlier, Kenyan delegates visited Kuno National Park and showed satisfaction over veterinary and conservation arrangements. "They want provisions in the MoU about long-term support from our premier institutes like Wildlife Institute of India, which include regular training of forest staff and setting up of institutions to enhance conservation efforts in Kenya," the officer said.

"We are hopeful that this time both the nations will work to establish a viable agreement and new cheetahs would arrive by the end of the year or early next year at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in MP."

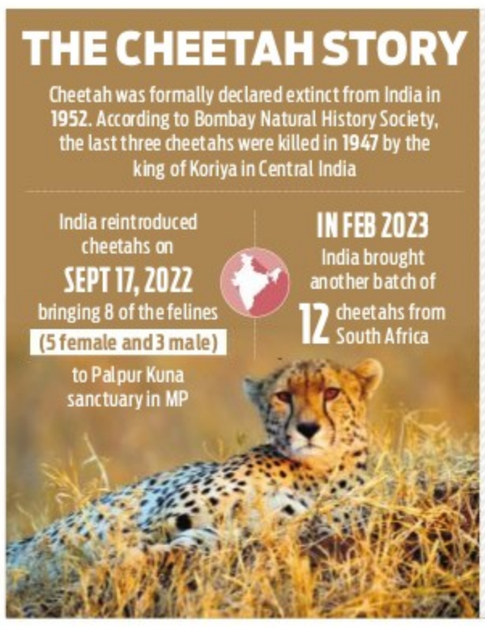
Moreover, the new government in South Africa showed less interest in transferring another batch of cheetahs, though they have 16 more big cats ready in captivity, he said.

Experts say the high mortality rate of cheetahs in India adds uncertainty to the cheetah project. The Madhya Pradesh government has already fenced off 80 sq km of Gandhi Sagar sanctuary and created enclosures. Efforts to improve the habitat, including enhancing grasslands and increasing prey populations, are underway, officials said.

As of today, Kuno has 25 cheetahs, including 12 cubs. So far, seven adult cheetahs and five cubs died between March 2023 and August 2024. Recently, the death of a free-ranging adult cheetah, Pawan, due to "drowning" created a controversy over India's conservation plan, as experts say a cheetah can swim and cannot drown.

Bringing cheetahs from southern hemisphere to northern hemisphere led to disruptions in their biological clocks. Cheetahs from the southern hemisphere develop a winter hair coat on their shoulders and necks. In Kuno, the winter season coincided with heat, humidity, and rainfall.

"So this time, we are keen to bring felines from the northern hemisphere," said Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj, ADGF (Project Tiger) and Member Secretary of NTCA.


THE CHEETAH STORY
Cheetah was formally declared extinct from India in 1952. According to Bombay Natural History Society, the last three cheetahs were killed in 1947 by the king of Koriya in Central India
India reintroduced cheetahs on SEPT 17, 2022 bringing 8 of the felines (5 female and 3 male) to Palpur Kuna sanctuary in MP
IN FEB 2023 India brought another batch of 12 cheetahs from South Africa
KUNO NATIONAL PARK NOW HAS 25 CHEETAHS, INCLUDING 12 CUBS
7 ADULT CHEETAHS AND 5 CUBS DIED BETWEEN MARCH 2023 AND AUGUST 2024
INDIA HAS NOW AGREED TO SIGN AN MOU WITH KENYA TO BRING CHEETAHS TO GANDHI SAGAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN MP

Army holds orientation programme to groom top officers for leadership roles

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

A training and orientation programme will be held from September 9 to 13 for senior officers of tri-services to foster jointness and integration, the ministry of defence (MoD) said in a statement on Sunday.

"The five-day development-cum-orientation programme has been designed for Major General and equivalent officers from the three services, along with officers from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Home Affairs," MoD said.

The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) is organising the Combined Operational Review and Evaluation programme for senior officers with an aim to create a detailed understanding of the operational environment.

The programme, MoD said, has been conceptualised to prepare senior officers of the Indian Armed Forces for future leadership roles by developing skills in strategic planning to tackle future threats.

The future wars will hinge on three vital elements: military leaders, combatants (man-machine interface) and support staff, MoD said.

"The Indian Armed Forces are taking dynamic steps towards modernisation, both in concepts and inventory. It is, therefore, imperative for future senior military leaders to stay abreast with changing geopolitical dynamics and futuristic combat scenarios augmented by disruptive technologies and advancements to take comprehensive decisions," it said.

The step is in consonance with comprehensive changes being made by the HQ IDS under a long-term plan that will ultimately shape into the Integrated Theatre Commands.

In May 2023, around 100 officers (Majors, Lieutenant Colonels and equivalent) from the Army, IAF and Navy were moved on cross-postings in all arms and services, including logistics, aviation and artillery.

In June 2023, the Department of Military Affairs paved the way for a common annual confidential report for senior officers serving at two- and three-star ranks. This will be extended to the other ranks in future.

IAF Day 2024 in Chennai

Keeping with the new tradition of hosting the Air Force Day celebrations in different parts of the country, this year's Air Force Day parade and Air Display will be held at Chennai on October 8. This will be IAF's 92nd Raising Day and would be the third time that the celebration takes place outside Delhi. Prior to this, the celebrations were held in Chandigarh and Prayagraj in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

CROCODILE-RESCUE

A nine-foot-long crocodile strayed into a residential area in Mumbai from where it was rescued on Sunday, a wildlife welfare group representative said. The crocodile was spotted at a housing society in Mulund area, he said.

1 KILLED

2 HURT AFTER CAR RAMS INTO A BIKE IN MUMBAI

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	26	Mumbai	29	26
Bhopal	31	23	Panaji	28	25
Jaipur	31	25	Patna	35	29
Amritsar	34	28	Lucknow	34	28
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	33	28	Imphal	30	23
Srinagar	29	18	Chandigarh	34	27

● Artists, rights activists, professionals join protests against RG Kar rape-murder ● Supreme Court order awaited

Bengal story: 'We want justice'

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @Kolkata

People take part in a protest march over rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata| PTI

NEARLY a month after the rape-murder of a trainee doctor in government-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in the state capital, people from all walks of life — former students of several educational institutions, clay modelers, rickshaw pullers and junior doctors — separately hit the streets of Kolkata on Sunday.

Demanding the arrest of all culprits in the case, the mother of the post-graduate trainee whose body was found in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9, said she had one child and now all the protesting medics are her children. The protests were in addition to the global outcry that included people from more than 130 cities across the globe.

In Kolkata, events over the weekend will see street protests reaching their third peak, following significant protests on the nights of August 14 and September 4. On Sunday civil rights groups, actors, theatre personalities, doctors, nurses, hospital staff in Kolkata organised protests in various parts of the state. The protestors organised a 16-km human chain stretching from the victim's Sodepur residence to RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Monday also marks one month since the brutal crime, prompting a call to "Reclaim the Night" in various parts of the city. This initiative, led by researcher Rimjhim Sinha, who first issued the 'Reclaim the Night' call on August 14, aims to keep a vigilant presence on the streets the night before the SC hearing.

The people of Reclaim the Night will also organise a protest movement from 4 am to 6.30 am on Monday in protest against the government's failure to arrest culprits in the rape and murder of a 31 year old post-graduate student.

The movement received an unexpected boost from renowned historian Dipesh Chakrabarty, who has voiced his support for Sinha and the organisers of 'Reclaim the Night.' Chakrabarty has agreed to mentor the activists in their pursuit of justice and the broader goal of ensuring women's safety.

Sinha emphasised that since the Supreme Court hearing coincides with the one-month mark of the crime, the movement is calling for another night of protests starting at 11 pm on Sunday. "We are appealing to everyone — teachers, students, musicians and professionals — to come out on the streets with musical instruments, so we can awake those in power from their slumber with music and rhythm, just as Goopy Gyne woke the king from his sleep," she said.

She also urged women who had participated in earlier night protests from various parts of the state to join forces and collaborate in forming a platform to push for women's safety reforms. Reiterating the principles of the initiative, Sinha said, "We made it clear that no party flags from political parties are welcome. They have been in power for so long but have failed to protect us."

SC bench headed by CJI set to hear Kolkata case today

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the suo motu cognisance case involving the brutal rape-and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on September 9. A three-judge bench of the top court, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, is slated to hear the matter.

On August 20, the Supreme Court in its order constituted a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) headed by surgeon vice-admiral and DG medical services (Navy) Arti Sarin to formulate guidelines for ensuring safety, security and facilities to doctors and healthcare staff in hospitals across India.

The other members of the NTF, set up by the Supreme Court, include chairman of Hyderabad-based Asian Institute of Gastroenterology D Nageshwar Reddy, AIIMS Delhi director M Srinivas, NIMHANS Bengaluru director- Pratima Murthy, Jodhpur AIIMS executive director- Goverdhan Dutt Puri, Ganga Ram Hospital's Saumitra Rawat, Rohtak-based Pandit B D Sharma Medical University vice-chancellor Anita Saxena, dean of Mumbai-based Grant Medical College Pallavi Saple and chairperson of neurology at Paras Health Gurugram Padma Srivastava.

The three-judge bench termed the "incident as horrific and horrendous," saying showed a systemic failure of the state machinery.

The apex court criticised the Kolkata Police and state for inaction in the prompt investigation and allowing a mob to vandalise the hospital. Expressing its serious concern about the death of the doctor, the apex court warned the Bengal government that it should not unleash any power on peaceful protestors. "The power of state must not be unleashed on them. Please deal with them with sensitivity," the apex court said in its order.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
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BJP's dilemma over Shinde growth

The BJP's parent organisation, the RSS, held a meeting in Mumbai to discuss the upcoming Maharashtra state assembly elections. During the meeting, concerns were raised about whether the BJP had made the right decision by breaking away from the Shiv Sena, founded by the late Balasaheb Thackeray, and aligning with Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde. Some factions within the RSS are worried that Shinde is growing in prominence, cementing his position in state and at Centre. The meeting concluded that, in trying to diminish Thackeray's influence, the BJP has created a new problem in the form of Shinde.

Pawar's strategic silence on CM candidate

In 2019, former Union Minister Sharad Pawar was instrumental in making Uddhav Thackeray the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, aiming to deliver a political lesson and return to power through the MVA experiment. However, with the 2024 state assembly elections approaching, Sharad Pawar seems reluctant to announce Uddhav Thackeray as the CM candidate. Instead, Pawar has decided to keep his plans close to his chest until the final results are in. The Congress is also eyeing a significant opportunity to secure the CM position after a 15-year hiatus in state politics.

Statue controversy boosts Uddhav's party

The recent collapse of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue has provided Uddhav Thackeray with a chance to recover from the damage his party suffered in the last Lok Sabha elections in Konkan and the Mumbai metropolitan region. Shiv Sena, which originated in Mumbai, had naturally expanded into the Konkan belt with a similar voter base. However, in the last Lok Sabha polls, Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena lost three crucial seats in Raigad, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, and Mawal. The statue controversy has revitalised Thackeray's cadre, fostering the perception that the BJP has not spared even Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for corruption.

U'khand orders probe into gangster don's religious initiation in Almora jail

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

THE Uttarakhand government on Sunday ordered a probe into the recent anointment of gangster Prakash Pandey, alias PP, as a saint in Almora jail by some members of the Shri Panchdashnam Juna Akhara based in Haridwar. PP (52), a former associate of underworld don Chhota Rajan, is currently serving a life sentence in the jail for multiple crimes, including killing senior Delhi Police officer Rajbir Singh in 2008.

According to a government statement, Special Secretary Riddhim Aggarwal has appointed Yashwant Chauhan, additional inspector general, prison administration and reform services, as the investigating officer.

"The investigation will focus on the circumstances surrounding the religious initiation and determine if any rules or regulations were violated," said Yashwant Chauhan. The government has set a deadline of seven days for the submission of the investigation report, according to the communique. Juna Akhara has also launched an investigation into the controversial initiation of PP on September 5, citing concerns about criminal elements in religious institutions. A seven-member committee will probe the initiation.

Sources said that the investigations by Juna Akhara and the police department may lead to action against jail officials, staff, and saints involved in the incident. PP was made the head of several temples. However, the jail administration denied any such activity took place on the jail premises.

Mahant Hari Giri said, "The saints who initiated Prakash Pandey as a religious leader will also be investigated. If the investigation reveals that any saint accepted money to make PP a mahant, they will be expelled from the akhara." The akhara is a prominent sect within the Kumbh Mela.

'GHAR WAPSI'

TMC's ex-Assam chief Ripun Bora returns to Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

FORMER Assam president of Trinamool Congress Ripun Bora on Sunday returned to the Congress which he had left in 2022. Bora resigned from the TMC on September 1 after observing that issues, including the perception that the TMC is a regional party of West Bengal, hindered its progress in Assam.

Congress's Assam in-charge Jitendra Singh and state chief Bhupen Kumar Borah welcomed Bora to the party fold. "We welcome Ripun Bora Ji on behalf of AICC. It is his 'ghar wapsi'. He might have once left us to join TMC but he carries the DNA of the Congress. I am very happy that he rejoined the Congress without any pre-condition," Singh said.

Bora said. "I had left the Congress and was away from it for two years and a half. I am feeling proud to have returned to my old home."

He felt that the other opposition parties, including the TMC, in Assam will not be able to "uproot" the ruling BJP.

Several top functionaries of state TMC also joined the Congress along with Bora.

Modi to hold 2 rallies in BJP stronghold Jammu on Sept 14

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AS electioneering intensifies for the first Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Jammu, the BJP's stronghold in the Union Territory, on 14 September to address two election rallies. A BJP leader confirmed that PM Modi's visit to Jammu for the election campaign has been finalised.

"He will undertake a day-long visit to Jammu on 14 September. The Prime Minister will address two election rallies in the Jammu region, including one in Doda district on the same day," he said. The Jammu region has long been a bastion for the BJP, which won all 25 of its seats in the 2014 Assembly polls in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state from this region.

The BJP now faces a formidable challenge in its stronghold from the rejuvenated Congress, whose vote share increased by 5-10% in the recently held Lok Sabha polls despite losing both seats. A BJP leader indicated that PM Modi's rallies in the Jammu region will boost the morale of party workers and galvanise the party's support base in the area.

He noted that the Prime Minister is highly popular in Jammu and Kashmir and his election campaign will undoubtedly benefit the BJP and its candidates.

The Prime Minister is expected to hold over half a dozen election rallies during the three-phase J&K polls. "It is quite likely that he will also address a rally in Kashmir. The schedule for these rallies is currently being finalised."

"The Prime Minister has the potential to sway voters towards the BJP, and in this election, every vote is crucial," he added.

The BJP's focus remains on the Jammu region, which holds 43 seats in the 90-member J&K Assembly.

The BJP is contesting all the seats in the Jammu region and aims to replicate its 2014 performance, when it won 25 out of 37 seats in the region.

The Assembly polls, which will be the first such election after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile J&K state into two Union Territories by the Centre on 5 August 2019, are regarded as a referendum by the parties. Even BJP leaders acknowledge that "this is not an ordinary election but a very significant poll in which every seat counts".

Home Minister Amit Shah addressed a poll rally in Jammu on Saturday, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed another rally in Ramban district of Jammu province on Sunday.

The party will deploy 40 star campaigners, including the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Defence Minister, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and other Union ministers and BJP leaders for the election campaign in J&K.

Banned Jamaat holds first election rally

Signalling changing times, banned Jamaat-e-Islami, which had been calling for poll boycott and staying away from elections over three decades of militancy in J&K, on Sunday held its first election rally since 1987 in south Kashmir's Kulgam. The Jamaat, which has been banned under UAPA, had a show in Bugam of Kulgam.

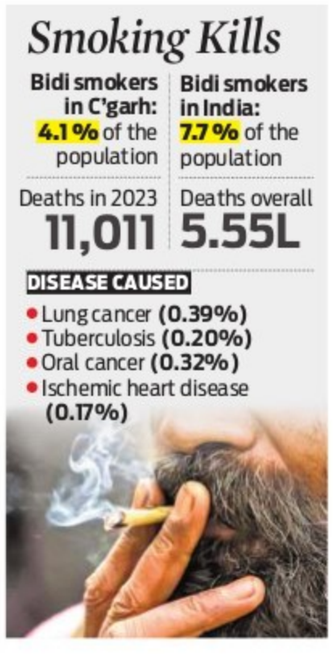
Cancer sticks: Over 11K bidi deaths in C'garh, 5.5L nationwide in 2023

EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

AN extensive study carried out by AIIMS-Jodhpur on the health and economic burdens due to bidi smoking in Chhattisgarh has estimated 11,011 deaths in the year 2023, with prevalent bidi smokers believed to be around 4.1% of the state's population.

The study also covered various states with Uttar Pradesh reporting the maximum figure on deaths with over one lakh per annum followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu with over 50,000 and 42,000 respectively dying due to bidi smoking. According to the study, the total deaths attributable to bidi smoking in India is said to be over 5.55 lakhs with 7.7% of the country's population being tobacco users.

There are a good number of studies, reports, and analysis on cigarette use and its harmful effects, but very few conducted in other tobacco forms, as per the observations made by the ministry of health and



World Health Organisation.

A meta-analysis was also conducted during the course of survey to account for the data from all published studies concerning disease occurrence, such like lung cancer (0.39%), tuberculosis (0.20%), oral cancer (0.32%), and ischemic heart disease (0.17%) due to bidi consumption in the state.

As per one observation there were higher risks seen with bidi smoking compared to cigarettes.

A state-level workshop was recently organised in Raipur to energise the tobacco control system which the officials from the health, excise, labour and transport department attended.

The state nodal officer of tobacco control programme Dr Kamlesh Jain focussing on the need for enhanced awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco had expressed concern over the people addicted to tobacco despite the specified health warning on tobacco products packs. In addition to health, the AIIMS survey also made extensive observations on the corresponding economic implications and burdens owing to bidi consumption.

Tension grips MP town over stone-pelting

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

TENSION prevailed in the communally sensitive Ratlam city of western Madhya Pradesh on Saturday night following allegations of stone-pelting on a Ganesh idol procession.

Angry over the alleged stone-pelting on the procession in the communally sensitive Mochipura locality of Ratlam city, a mob gathered outside the Station Road police station, after which an FIR was lodged against unidentified accused in the matter, a police official said.

However, the mob instead of being satisfied with the police action, subsequently announced to travel through the same sensitive Mochipura locality with their religious flag.

The police tried to stop them and cautioned them, but the unruly mob did so and also indulged in stone-pelting in the sensitive area, damaging vehicles of families of the minority community. The police used force, cane-charged and fired tear gas to disperse them.

Bihar teenager dies after fake doctor performs surgery shown on YouTube

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

A 15-year-old boy died after a fake doctor, guided by YouTube videos, performed a surgery to remove a stone from his gall bladder in Bihar's Saran district. The victim's family later lodged a police complaint against the 'doctor' and other staff of a private nursing home where the incident took place.

According to a police complaint, Golu (15), a resident of Bhuwalpur under Marhaura police station in Saran district, was admitted to Ganpati Seva Sadan at Dharma Baghi Bazar on Friday after he complained of vomiting and stomach ache. The boy felt better after drugs were administered to stop the vomiting at the hospital.

However, the 'doctor' identified as Ajit Kumar Puri took Golu to the operation theatre without the family's consent, saying an urgent operation was needed to remove the stone from his gall bladder, the cause of stomach ache. "The patient started wreathing in pain, and his condition deteriorated," the boy's grandfather, Prahlad Prasad Shaw, told the media on Sunday.

15-year-old Golu died after surgery; the fake doctor operated upon the teen at Ganpati Seva Sadan in Bihar's Saran | EXPRESS

He said the patient stopped breathing late in the evening but was revived with CPR. Puri then arranged for an ambulance and asked the family to rush the boy to Patna for better treatment as he was critical. The "doctor" and his medical assistant accompanied the patient in the ambulance on the family's persuasion but fled as soon as the patient died on the way to Patna. "They left the body on the stairs of the hospital and fled," Shaw added.

A complaint has been lodged against the 'doctor' and other staff of the hospital at Marhaura police station on the statement of the deceased's father Krishna Prasad. Saran superintendent of police Kumar Ashish assured of a proper police probe.

6 killed
After typhoon batters Vietnam triggering a landslide

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	31	21	SNY	Los Angeles	28	18	LC
Colombo	31	26	TDS	Melbourne	18	12	LR
Dhaka	30	26	TDS	Moscow	28	16	HR
Dubai	41	31	SNY	New York	31	21	SNY
Houston	35	26	TDS	Singapore	29	26	TDS
Istanbul	32	23	LC	Toronto	25	19	LC
London	21	14	LC	Washington	32	20	LC

B'desh to take necessary steps to extradite ex-PM Hasina from India

She faces charges of mass killings during the recent protest, says ICT chief prosecutor

DHAKA

BANGLADESH will take necessary steps to extradite deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India to try her on charges of mass killings during the student-led mass movement against her government, the newly-appointed chief prosecutor of the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) said on Sunday.

Following unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India.

Necessary steps will be taken to bring Hasina back under the extradition treaty with India to try her on charges of mass killings during the student-led protests in July and August, International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam was quoted as saying by *The Daily Star* newspaper.

"We will file an application with the International Crimes Tribunal, when it resumes functions, to issue arrest warrants against all the absconding accused including Sheikh Hasina in connection with the cases filed for mass killing and crimes against humanity," he said at a press briefing on the ICT premises in Dhaka.

Replying to a question, he said a decision would be taken after consulting with the government about amendments to the existing International Crimes Tribunal Act for holding trial of the new cases filed with ICT.

"Information, documents and evidence against the accused persons will have to be collected from across the country and those will have to be compiled, examined and placed properly before the tribunal, which is very much challenging and huge task," Islam added. According to the interim government's Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum, more than 1,000 people have been killed and hundreds injured during the protests against the Hasina-led government.

Bangladesh's ICT last month launched an investigation against Hasina and nine others on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity that took place from July 15 to August 5 during the students' mass movement. Islam said the International Crimes Tribunal and its investigation team will have to be reconstituted by appointing new judges and investigators as previous judges, prosecution team and investigation agency appointed by the previous government have stepped down after the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was formed in the country following the fall of the Hasina-led government. *PTI*

Govt warns against communal unrest

Amid concerns of possible unrest during Durga Puja, Bangladesh's interim government on Sunday warned potential troublemakers, pledging tough action against those disrupting communal harmony or targeting places of worship during the Hindu festival. Durga puja will be celebrated from October 9 to October 13.

Russia advances after air strikes on Ukraine

KYIV

RUSSIA on Sunday said its forces had advanced in eastern Ukraine as Kyiv reported deadly air attacks and urged the West to allow it to carry out more retaliatory strikes inside Russia's borders.

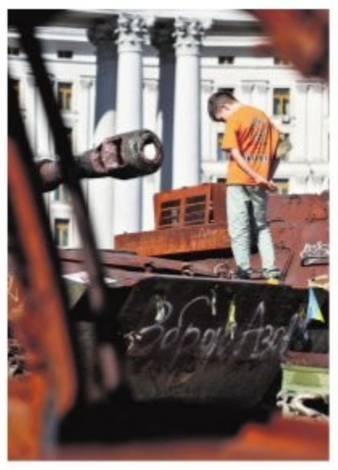
Moscow has upped its aerial attacks in recent weeks at the same time it tries to fight off a major Ukrainian cross-border offensive into its Western Kursk region that has reshaped the course of the two-and-a-half-year war.

Two people were killed on Sunday in a Russian air strike on the Ukrainian city of Sumy, the capital of the region from where Ukraine poured troops and tanks across the border into Russia in its shock counter-attack.

"As a result of the air strike, two people died. Four more people were injured, including two children," Sumy military authorities in the region said.

A Russian rocket strike on a village close to the front line in the Donetsk region also killed two people, the regional prosecutor's office said Sunday.

"Two local women aged 43 and 53 died as a result of cluster munitions" hitting their gardens, it said in a statement.



Kyiv launched its Kursk offensive on August 6 hoping to force Russia to redeploy troops currently pressing forward in the east of the country. But Moscow has appeared to intensify its attacks there, chalking up its most significant territorial gains in almost two years over the month of August.

Its military claimed on Sunday to have captured another small village as it advances towards the key logistics hub of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region. The defence ministry in Moscow said its troops had "liberated the settlement of Novohrodivka." *AFP*

Iran prez's first foreign visit will be Iraq

TEHRAN

IRAN's President Masoud Pezeshkian will visit neighbouring Iraq on Wednesday, state media reported on Sunday, in what will be his first trip abroad since he took office.

Pezeshkian will head a high-ranking Iranians delegation to Baghdad to meet senior Iraqi officials.

The visit comes at the invitation of Iraq's premier, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, the official *IRNA* news agency quoted Iran's ambassador to Baghdad Mohammad Kazem Al-Sadegh as saying.

The two countries will sign memoranda of understanding on cooperation and security, Sadegh said, without elaborating.

He said the agreements were to have been signed during a planned visit to Iraq by Iran's late president, Ebrahim Raisi. But Raisi was killed in May along with the then foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, when their helicopter crashed on a fog -shrouded mountainside in northern Iran. Since taking office, Pezeshkian has vowed to "prioritise" strengthening ties with the Islamic republic's neighbours. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

PHILIPPINES ARRESTS PASTOR WANTED IN THE US FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Manila: The Philippines said it arrested on Sunday a pastor wanted in the United States for child sex trafficking, two weeks into a massive police manhunt for the self-proclaimed "Appointed Son of God". Apollo Quiboloy, who has close relations with former president Rodrigo Duterte, is the founder of the Philippines-based Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) church which claims millions of members. He was charged by the US Justice Department in 2021 with sex trafficking of girls

TYPHOON YAGI WEAKENS AFTER LEAVING DOZENS DEAD IN VIETNAM, CHINA

Ha Long: Typhoon Yagi weakened to a tropical depression on Sunday, after killing more than a dozen people, tearing roofs off buildings, sinking boats and triggering landslides across Vietnam. The typhoon had left a trail of destruction and two dozen people dead across southern China and the Philippines before it ravaged Vietnam. The storm killed 21 people and injured 229 in Vietnam, state media reported late Sunday. Among the victims was a family of four killed of northern Vietnam

Gunman kills 3 Israelis at West Bank

GAZA

A truck driver shot dead three Israeli guards at a border crossing between the occupied West Bank and Jordan on Sunday before being "eliminated", Israel's military said, as it pounded Gaza with new strikes.

The rare attack at the Allenby Bridge crossing comes amid soaring violence in the West Bank with major Israeli raids and attacks by Palestinians, and against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas Gaza war, now in its 12th month.

The military said "a terrorist" reached the crossing area, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, in a truck "from Jordan". The driver "exited the truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces operating at the bridge", a military statement said. "Three Israeli civilians were pronounced dead as a result of the attack," it said, clarifying that they were "security guards" and not in the army or police.

The attacker was shot dead, the military added, without providing his identity.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced the assailant as a "despicable terrorist" inspired by "a murderous ideology" which he said was fuelled by Iran. Hamas praised the attack but did not claim responsibility for it, adding it "affirms the Arab peoples' rejection of the (Israeli) occupation, its crimes, and its ambitions in Palestine and Jordan".

Jordan's interior ministry said authorities were "investigating the incident".

The crossing, in the Jordan Valley, is the only international gateway for Palestinians from the West Bank that does not require entering Israel, which has occupied the territory since 1967. Israel's military on August 28 launched simultaneous raids across several cities and refugee camps in the northern West Bank, killing at least 36 Palestinians, according to the Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry.

On Sunday, Israel pounded Gaza with air strikes and shelling as prospects remained dim for a ceasefire. *AFP*

Trump warns of retribution when he wins

MOSINEE: With just days to go before his first debate against Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Donald Trump posted a warning on his social media site threatening to jail those "involved in unscrupulous behaviour" this election, which he said would be under intense scrutiny. "WHEN I WIN, those people that CHEATED will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law, which will include long term prison sentences so that this Depravity of Justice does not happen again," Trump wrote, again sowing doubt about the integrity of the election. "Please beware," he went on, "that this legal exposure extends to Lawyers, Political Operatives, Donors, Illegal Voters, & Corrupt Election Officials. Those involved in unscrupulous behaviour will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately, never seen before in our Country." AP

IN THE COURT OF THE SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT MADIKERI

OS. No. 58/2022

PLAINTIFF : Ashika Chinnappa .N, D/o. Late N.B. Chinnappa, aged about 29 years, R/at. No. 4860-E, J Block, Near Shakthi Ganapathi Temple, Kanakadasa Nagara, Dhattagalli, Mysuru.

V/s

Defendant : Nellapattira Chengappa & others

Defendant No. 21 : Naveen Kumar, S/o. Nagaiah Naidu, aged about 46 years, R/o. N-94, 2nd Floor, 17th B Main Road, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore.

PAPER PUBLICATION DRAFT

Whereas the above named plaintiff has filed the above suit against the defendant for the relief of partition & seperate possession over the below mentioned suit schedule properties. The Defendant No. 21 is summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all the material questions relating to the above said suit or who shall be accompanied by same person able to answer all such questions **on 21.10.2024 at 11.00 AM** in default of your appearance as mentioned above before this Hon'ble court on the date as mentioned the suit will be heard & disposed in your absence.

Land Bearing Sy.No. 141, 139/1, 139/2, 147, 149/1, 149/2, 152/1, 152/2, 152/6, 152/7, 152/8, 152/9, 152/10, 152/11, 152/12, 152/13, 152/14, 152/17, 152/18, 152/19, 154/1, 176, situated at Galibeedu Village, Madikeri Taluk, Kodagu District.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 21.08.2024.

By Order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge & CJM Court, Kodugu, Madikeri.

C.K. Rudramurthy, R. Umesh, Advocate No.8, 2nd Floor, Bajjanna lane, Behind Maramma Temple, Chamarajapuram, Mysuru-570005.

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यूनियन बैंक | **Union Bank** of India (A Government of India Undertaking)

Asset Recovery Branch, #249/3RT, 1st Floor, Main Road, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad-500038, Telangana. Email id: ubin0556009@unionbankofindia.bank

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6 (2) / 8 (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Union Bank of India the secured creditor, caused a demand notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, calling upon you to pay the dues within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the period stipulated, the Authorised Officer, has taken possession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Even after taking possession of the secured assets, you have not paid the amount due to bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned properties by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the properties and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately.

Therefore, if you pay the amount due to the bank incurred by bank before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the properties and you can redeem your properties as stipulated in sec. 13 (8) of the Act:

1) **BRANCH: Union Bank of India, HMT IE Branch, Hyderabad (Subsequently, Account transferred to Asset Recovery Branch, 249/3RT, 1st Floor, Main Road, S.R.Nagar, Hyderabad-500038, Telangana).**

Sub: Sale of property belonging to **Mr. Narendra Anantapur Gugilla,** for realization of amount due to Bank under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Borrower(s): Managing Partner-cum-Mortgagor: M/s. Eco Organics India Rep by its Managing Partner: **Mr. Seetharaman Subramanya Sarma Akella,** H.No.5-5-35/69A, Plot No.69, 2nd Floor, Prashanthi Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072. **Mr. Seetharaman Subramanya Sarma Akella, S/o. Satyanarayana Murthy,** H.No.5-140/1, Street No.5K, Krishna Nagar Colony, Moula Ali Housing Board, Hyderabad-500040. **Partners-cum-Co-Obligants: Mrs. K.Padmavathi, W/o K.Srinivasulu,** F.No.202, C-Block, Hemadri Towers, Vivekananda Nagar Colony, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072. **Mr. M.Anil Kumar, S/o. M.Satyanarayana,** H.No.1-2-33/20/1, Plot No.13, Near Raghava Reddy Function Hall, A.S.Raju Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072. **Personal Guarantors-cum-Mortgagors: Mr. Narendra Anantapur Gugilla,** Plot No.121, Katha No.150, Old Assessment No.164, New Assessment No.164/3, Kengeri V, Hobli Bangalore South, Karnataka-580020. **Mrs. Ch.Sailaja Kameshwari,** Plot No.099, Concorde Cupertino, Doddathoguru V, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South, Karnataka-580020. **Mr. Chivukula Srikanth, S/o Ch.V.Subramanyam,** Residential Apartment No.002, Ground Floor, Jacksons Heights Block, Concorde Manhattans, Doddathoguru, Electronic City, Opp: Wipro Gate No.12, Doddathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Karnataka-580020.

Outstanding Due: Rs.2,26,95,434.40 (Rupees Two Crores Twenty Six Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Four and Forty Paisa only) as on 30-06-2024 along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses thereon.

Demand Notice Dated: 03-11-2021 **Taken Possession on: 15-11-2022**

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing House List/Site No.121, Khata No.150, Old Assessment No.164, New Assignment No. 164/3, situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, now comes under BBMP limits, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 40feet in all measuring 1600 Sft, belonging to **Mr. Narendra Anantapur Gugilla** and **bounded as follows: As per sale deed: East:** Road, **West:** Site bearing No.129, **North:** Site bearing No.118 & 128, **South:** Site bearing No.122. **As per latest EVR/Actuals: East:** Road, **West:** Private Property, **North:** Private property, **South:** Private property.

Sale deed: 02949/2016-17, Dated 12-08-2016, SRO: Jayanagar; Google coordinates: 12.905637, 77.464100

Place: Hyderabad, Date: 03.09.2024 **Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**

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Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: T.T.M.C. 'A' Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.
Phone: 080-22278813/14/15/16, **Website:** www.ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KSMCL/e-auction/FD/Act/950/2024-25 Date: 06.09.2024

e- AUCTION TENDER DOCUMENT FOR FUNDS MANAGEMENT

(E-Auction Notification, Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions)

Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited intends to invest Surplus Funds in Private Scheduled Commercial Banks through e-Auction at e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

Calendar of events for e-auction

No.	Particulars	Dates
1	Date of e-auction Notification	**06.09.2024**
2	Last Date and Time for submit the query	**07.09.2024 up to 05.00 PM**
3	Pre-Bid Meeting	**08.09.2024 up to 03.00 PM**
4	Last Date and Time to confirm participation of Interest in e-Auction (e- portal)	**09.09.2024 up to 11.00 AM**
5	Opening of Technical Bid for Evaluation	**11.09.2024 at 11.30 AM**
6	Live Bidding (e-Auction)	**Commences at 11.00 AM and concludes at 01.00 PM on 12.09.2024 (Delta time: 5.00 Min)**

The e-auction document can be downloaded from e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Interested bidders are requested to register in the e- procurement platform well in advance.

Contact e-procurement help desk: No. 080-46010000/68948777 for any support in uploading and registration.

DIPR/CP/KAVITA/1886/2024-25 **Sd/- General Manager (F & A)**

Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: T.T.M.C. 'A' Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.
Phone: 080-22278813/14/15/16, **Website:** www.ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KSMCL/e-auction/FD/Act/950/2024-25 Date: 06.09.2024

e- AUCTION TENDER DOCUMENT FOR FUNDS MANAGEMENT

(E-Auction Notification, Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions)

Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited intends to invest Surplus Funds in Public Sector Banks and RRBs through e-Auction at e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

Calendar of events for e-auction

No.	Particulars	Dates
1	Date of e-auction Notification	**06.09.2024**
2	Last Date and Time for submit the query	**07.09.2024 up to 05.00 PM**
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Contact e-procurement help desk: No. 080-46010000/68948777 for any support in uploading and registration.

DIPR/CP/KAVITA/1887/2024-25 **Sd/- General Manager (F & A)**

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2444/MSETCL/CO/Projects/T/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001234)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 220/33 kV Bidkin GIS s/s, along with associated line Tal. Paithan, Dist. Ch.Sambhajinagar under Ch. Sambhajinagar zone MSETCL Maharashtra.

"Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. https://srmetender.mahatransco.in

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 04.09.2024. **Sd/- Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL.**

NMDC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
CIN:L13100TG1958GOI001674.

WORKS DIVISION CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

e-Tender Notification (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)

Tender Enquiry No: HO(Works)/Contracts/Comml /2024/1048/217 Dated: 09/09/2024
MSTC Event No.: NMDC/Head Office/Contract/16/24-25/ET/431(APPT OF CONSIGNMENT AGENT)
Estimated Cost (including GST) : Rs. 44.60 Crore

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids through MSTC Portal from experienced, reputed and competent domestic bidders for the work of **"Engagement of a Consignment Agent at Hyderabad for handling of approximately 6 lakh Tons per year of HR products for NMDC for a period of 2 years"** The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from 09/09/2024 to 23/09/2024 from following website links:

1. NMDC website **https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/**
2. Central Public Procurement portal **https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** and search tender through tender enquiry number
3. MSTC portal **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn/**

For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website and search Tender Event No. NMDC/Head Office/Contract/16/24-25/ET/431 (APPT OF CONSIGNMENT AGENT).

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC portal only. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The Bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted:
GM (C, P & S), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad. Tel No. 040-23533536, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in Executive Director (Works)

SUPRA PACIFIC FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

Registered Office at Dreamax Height, Shop No:1, First Floor, Upadhyay Compound, Jija Mata Road, Near Pump House, Andheri East, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400093, Email: cs@suprapacific.com, Website: www.Suprapacific.com & Corporate Office at 3rd floor, Door No. 14/816 and 14/817, AJIYAL COMPLEX, Thrikkakara Municipality, Mavelipuram Colony, Vayu Sena Road, Kakkanad P.O., Ernakulam, PIN 682030, Contact: 0484 3100900,Email: info@suprapacific.com, Website: www.Suprapacific.com

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The Pledgers of the gold ornaments and the public are hereby notified that public auction of below mentioned accounts with the company at different branches, which are not closed or renewed on due dates proposed to be conducted on various days from 24-09-2024 to 23-10-2024 at respective branches as per notices published at respective branches.

The details of Auction accounts are:

KARNATAKA - Arakalgud - 10577020000002 (310104300000201), 10577040000011 (310104500000320), **Horamavu** - 10476990000045 (260105400000131), 10477040000002 (260104500000218), 10477040000003 (260104500000219), 10477040000004 (260104500000220), 10477040000007 (260104500000222), **Jayanagar** - 10487000000001 (270104900000055), 10487040000002 (270104500000084), 10487040000003 (270104500000085), **Kammanahalli** - 10456440000195 (240105300000112), 10456440000202 (240105300000114), 10456990000034 (240105400000151), 10457040000007 (240104500000289), **Kanakapura** - 10466440000160 (00250105300000085), 10466440000163 (00250105300000087), 10466990000060 (00250105400000126), 10466990000090 (00250105400000134), **Ramamurthy Nagar** - 10546990000027 (00280105400000076), 10546990000034 (00280105400000081), 10547020000008 (00280100200000113), 10547020000022 (00280100200000120), 10547040000002 (00280100600000181), 10547040000008 (00280100600000185)

The number given in brackets are the corresponding account numbers generated in new software after migration.

The customers who wish to close and take back ornaments of their gold loan account can close the account till 23-09-2024 Persons wishing to participate in the above auction should bring appropriate and acceptable identification documents indicating both identity and address proof along with PAN card and GST Registration certificate (if any). The Company retains the right to postpone the auction. Participation in the auction and approval of bids will be solely at the discretion of the Auctioneer.

Date: 07.09.2024 Issued by the Authorized Officer

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE / Established by Govt. of Karnataka
(A Postgraduate institute of Higher Medical Sciences)
Recognised Under Societies Registration act Reg No. 132/85-86
South Hospital Complex, Dharmaram College Post, Bangalore - 560 029.
e-mail: ihealthchild@yahoo.in | Website: www.igich.org
Ph: 080-26639149 / 22443143 / 22442421

No: IGICH/TND/H&S/6/2024-25 **Date: 06.09.2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited through Gok e-procurement platform **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by the Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bangalore from the eligible tenderers for the following mentioned hereunder:

Name of the Service: 1) House Keeping Services. **2)** Security Services. **EMD:** Rs.1,00,000/- each.

Tender uploading & Documents may be downloaded from : **09.09.2024**. Pre-bid meeting (At Director Room): **18.09.2024 at 3:00 pm**. Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **08.10.2024 upto 4:00 pm**. Date & Time of opening of cover one of tenders: **10.10.2024 at 4:00 pm**.

For further details visit Gok e-procurement website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk on 080-25501216, 080-25501227.

Sd/- Administrative Officer / Tender Inviting Officer.

DIPR/CP/JA/1876/2024-25

₹11,000 CR have been infused by FPIs in Indian equities so far.

New AMCs see big potential in Indian mkt, set ambitious targets

With the immense potential for growth in the domestic equity markets, new entrants in asset management space are capitalising on the favourable environment

ARSHAD KHAN @New Delhi

BUOYED by ever-increasing participation from retail investors, new asset management companies (AMCs) have set ambitious targets for themselves.

They believe that as India's economy and corporate earnings grow, more and more people will start investing in mutual funds.

"India's population is 140 crore and of that 130 crore has an Aadhaar card and 75 crore has a PAN (permanent account number) card. At present, there must be around 60 crore people whose PAN is linked to Aadhaar - people who are eligible for the KYC (know your customer) process to open their account in the MF industry. At present, however, the MF industry has only 4.80 crore PAN. We are not even 10% of what we can be," said Mayukh Dutta, Chief Business Officer at ITI Mutual Fund. Dutta highlighted the country's strong fundamentals and the immense potential for growth in the domestic equity markets. ITI Mutual Fund, which started in 2019, has set an ambitious target to reach ₹1 lakh crore AUM in the next five years.

The company's asset under management (AUM) increased nearly 2.4 times to ₹8,791 crore in July 2024 from ₹3,698 crore in March 2023. Some of its funds such as ITI ELSS Tax Saver Fund, ITI Multi Cap Fund and ITI Small Cap Fund have given a return of 51-64% in the past one year.

"India's economic growth trajectory offers a unique opportunity for mutual funds. With the country's anticipated growth rate surpassing many global economies, ITI AMC is poised to experience significant expansion. We aim to capitalise on this favourable environment. We are aiming to reach an AUM of ₹1 lakh crore within the next five years," said Dutta. In the last 10 years, the Indian mutual fund industry's net AUM has grown by more than 6 times to about ₹65 lakh crore. In May 2014, the industry's AUM stood at ₹10 lakh crore. The industry is hopeful that the it will hit the ₹100 lakh crore mark in less than 2 years.

This phenomenal growth has been amply supported by retail investors who have been pouring money via systematic investment plans (SIP). The monthly SIP contributions reached an all-time high, crossing the ₹23,000 crore mark in July 2024. The number of SIP accounts in the industry stood at 9.34 crore. Expecting India's growth story to continue, a good number of legacy names as well as new-age companies have joined the bandwagon. New names such as Zerodha, Helios, White Oak and Bajaj Finserv AMC are becoming quite popular among investors. Bajaj Finserv Asset Management, a 100% subsidiary of NBFC major Bajaj Finserv, said that in the long run, they want to be among the top 10 AMCs in India. The AMC also marked the first anniversary of its equity fund, Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund. In its first year, the fund's AUM crossed ₹3,500 crore and it recorded returns of 41.30% under the regular plan and 43.43% under the direct plan.

In its first year, Bajaj Finserv Asset Management house has launched 10 active schemes, (3 Equity, 4 Debt and 3 Hybrid) along with 3 ETFs registering a total AUM of ₹17,255 crore (as on August 31, 2024).

Ganesh Mohan, CEO of Bajaj Finserv AMC, said, "This (Megatrends) strategy allowed us to spread investments over time, reducing the impact of market volatility from geopolitical risks and optimizing our entry points." "This approach ensured that our fund remained true to its label, dynamically adjusting market cap allocations and strategically selecting sectors based on evolving market conditions," he added.

Zerodha Fund House in late March this year announced that it had crossed assets under management of ₹1,000 crore in less than five months. The fund house, which focuses only on passive funds, has added ₹ 500 crore in the last 40 days. Zerodha AMC is a joint venture between online stock broking firm Zerodha and fintech company smallcase.

Zerodha ELSS Tax Saver Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund, Zerodha Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund and Zerodha Gold ETF are some of the offerings by the fund house. Experts said that the industry will add 4-5 new AMCs every year given more people are expected to invest in the equity market. However, they also highlighted current risk, including current valuation of the market, geopolitical development and delay in interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

KNOW THE RISKS IN INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING FLIPPING

AS a retail investor, your ability to hold on to your investment hurts. If you do not buy and hold equity assets for a long time, you cannot benefit from the growth of the businesses you invest in. In the case of mutual funds, the average holding period in a scheme is around three years. While that is a worrying trend, another one was highlighted in detail in a survey by the Securities and Exchange Board of India. It further shows the fickle nature of your investments.

The survey published last week on initial public offerings showed that about 54% of the value of the IPO was sold in the first week of listing. High-net-worth individuals were at the forefront. They sold two-thirds of the shares within a week. Shares of companies that jump sharply witness the most 'IPO flipping' according to the study. About 40% of the retail investors are from Gujarat. That is significantly more than 13.5% of investors in Maharashtra, the second state in IPO flipping.

IPO flipping is a method of using the company's listing to buy and sell shares rapidly. The short-term thinking meant that close to 68% of retail investors sold shares when the average bump in the share price on listing was 20%. As many as 28% of the retail investors sold shares when returns were negative. These could be individuals who borrowed money to invest in the IPO. It is hard to imagine actively selling at a loss. Mutual Funds, which have a higher holding capacity, were found to be net buyers during the first week of listing in the study.

This column has always warned against short-term investing in equity assets. In a bull market, everything seems like high returns and low-risk investment. However, there are no free lunches. Financial markets move in cycles that go up or down. Corporate profits determine the overall direction of equity markets in the long term. Share prices steadily increase if companies consistently make profits despite short-term selloff trends. However, if share prices rally aggressively and profits do not keep up with expectations, there is always a good chance of shares falling.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

For IPOs, companies go for a public offering for several reasons. In a bull market, you believe you can strike a deal for a company that offers a relatively discounted price to the market in the public offer. However, the sellers have a different purpose. Many companies have raised money through private equity investors, anchor investors, founders or business groups.

Whenever a company makes an offer for sale, it is usually a secondary sale of shares where no money goes into the company. It goes to selling shareholders. There is no new issue of shares. Such a company is usually a profit-making company or has significant growth prospects. Zomato, the food delivery company, is an example. The company continues to see a significant churn in investors. Institutional investors control a majority of that company. A high-free float allows more investors to participate in the company's future. While Zomato has turned profitable, it continues to grow revenue every quarter. Investors who came into the company after the IPO and continue to hold have witnessed their investment jump several times.

Investing in a large, growing business is not a problem. However, Sebi recently warned about small and medium enterprises' IPOs. Companies are receiving bids that are way too many than expected. In a bull market, you are probably looking for value in the private market or the new issue market. However, the pricing for IPOs is based on a mechanism that considers recent market trends in similar businesses. The company seeking to list shares is usually offered at a discounted rate to the average valuation in the industry. However, it is your job to understand the risks before investing.

You need to get up to speed with the company fundamentals, like trading in derivatives or other short-term assets. Without knowledge and adequate reading, you cannot apply for shares in an IPO. You should not do that even if your best friend is investing. Discussing the prospects for any investment with an expert is a good idea. That person should be an independent financial advisor.

MONEY-WISE

FRUGALITY AND EARLY RETIREMENT

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

EVEN the Ultra-Rich compare themselves to others in their league and feel bad about not having 'enough'.

The problem with poorer people is that they compare themselves to others like them. It does not stop there. They also compare themselves to others whom they see on Tik-Tok, reels, television, movies, and hear on radio. This makes things worse for them.

So, let's not deny that 'Comparing to the Jones' was much better than what is happening today!

'Am I doing better than the market' or 'Am I doing better than how I was doing last year' or 'Do I have more than my brother' or 'Am I running better than the others in the group' are questions that we all have asked ourselves. Can you imagine being in a running group or cycling group and NOT comparing ourselves to the others in the group?

Comparing is harmful to our brain and our health too. If you want to spend less (read save more and thus invest more and increase your net-worth) it is necessary to buy things that you will use rather than things that you see others using.

For all you know these could just be imaginary characters!

One of the worst problems of the current generation is a concept called 'FIRE' (Financial Independence, Retire Early). Even with a few million dollars (or a few crore rupees) it is difficult to retire at 33 and wonder what to do for the next 77 years! Yes, you can choose to do something you really love. I keep saying when you don't mind which week of the day it is, you are enjoying your calling. This is hardly a thing to Retire from.

However, FIRE is the reason why people are spending less – which happens by 'Not living like the Joneses'. However, people keep comparing themselves with their siblings, cousins, friends, and keep asking financial consultants about their standing in the 'FIRE' rankings! Guys that too is a comparison and is guaranteed to give you lots of pain. There is no pleasure in the comparison game.

In a country (or world) where every citizen has turned into a consumer (as true of India as the whole world) F.I.R.E is a great movement by itself. So many consultants, bloggers, YouTubers, are now encouraging you to be FRUGAL – which is very important for people who are on the path to early retirement. Can you afford to be profligate while spending -and at the same time try to retire in your 40s or early 50s.

The less that you consume the more money you have to invest. It also means you need less to retire on. For a person spending ₹ 5 lakh a year at the age of 60, he needs ₹1.5 crore to retire. However, if you are spending ₹20 lakh a year, you will need ₹6 crore to retire!

So go and work on your F.I.R.E – remember Financial Independence is a prerequisite for early retirement! If you set for yourself a tough target of saving 50 to 60 percent of your Income, you can retire in your forties or fifties and need not wait till you are sixties!

Your debit and credit cards also come with insurance coverage

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

MANY of us always carry debit and credit cards but are we aware that these cards also come with a complimentary personal accident insurance cover? Yes, you can claim your insurance through these cards. While some banks offer complimentary insurance on cards, some charge a monthly fee for the coverage.

Mahavir Chopra, Founder, Beshak.org, an insurtech platform, said, "Many credit card and debit card companies do have life insurance, accident insurance, or a cyber insurance cover as part of their value-added offerings. These offerings may come with their own scope of cover and terms and conditions that need to be understood before one depends on them." For instance, an accidental death cover can be an air accidental death cover, which is a very small risk covered in comparison to covering all accidental deaths. Also, cards may require you to be 'active' with recent transactions for the benefit of being active. "For instance, it may require a transaction in the last 3 months or 6 months. In case there is no transaction in the last 3/6 months, the claim may not be payable," he added.

Rohit Chhibbar, Head of Credit Cards, Paisabazaar, said, several mid-range to premium Credit Cards offer insurance related to personal accident, air accident and travel-related needs to card holders. These cards typically provide Air Accident Death cover and Emergency Overseas Hospitalisation cover. However, one should have a clear distinction between insurance needs and choosing the right credit cards and not mix the two. Choose a credit card only on the basis of its features and benefits and how suited it is to your expenses and lifestyle. Don't choose a credit card based on the insurance perks it offers, he said.

Council to discuss GST on RWA maintenance charges

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

IN a significant development for residents and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) across the country, the GST Council in its 54th meeting on September 9, is expected to deliberate on increasing the threshold limit for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) applicable on maintenance charges.

According to sources, the threshold limit may be increased to ₹9,000-₹10,000 per month. Currently, maintenance charges paid by residents to RWAs are exempt from GST up to ₹7,500 per month per member. However, should the monthly charge exceed this limit, GST is levied on the entire amount, provided the aggregate turnover of the RWA reaches ₹20 lakh or more. Also, the GST applicability on the transfer of development rights within the joint development agreements (JDAs) in the real estate will likely be discussed. A JDA is a legal contract that facilitates collaboration between landowners and developers to undertake construction projects on the landowner's property. In India, JDAs have become a prevalent method for real estate development across various sectors. In addition, the Council may deliberate on under-construction properties as well. The panel on real estate is reportedly in favour of reducing GST rates on under-construction properties to enhance housing affordability. In related news, there remains ongoing ambiguity regarding the imposition of GST on commercial transactions processed through PoS machines,QR Codes and net banking for amounts below ₹2,000.

Sources indicate that while the GST authorities have raised tax demands on certain transactions in this category, clarity on the GST applicability is still pending. In the upcoming meeting, imposition of an 18% GST rate on such transactions may be discussed. Earlier, this newspaper had reported that the council meeting will focus on proposals aimed at rationalizing the current GST structure, which imposes an 18% tax on mediclaim premiums.

According to sources, among the proposals under consideration are options to allow mediclaim firms to charge a reduced GST rate of 5% without the benefit of input tax credit (ITC) or to implement a uniform 5% GST rate specifically for B2C supplies. Another important item on the agenda will be the clarification regarding the valuation of payments for services received from related parties, particularly in light of recent cases involving Infosys. This clarification is expected to provide much-needed guidance to businesses that engage in intercompany transactions under the GST framework.

Jio Fin Services enters investment advisory biz; forms JV with BlackRock

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DEEPENING its ties with BlackRock Inc, Jio Financial Services Ltd, a Reliance Industry group company, has entered into a joint venture with BlackRock Advisors Singapore Pte. Ltd to form Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers Private Limited.

The primary business of the JV will be investment advisory services, JFSL said in a regulatory filing on Sunday.

The company will invest an amount of ₹3 crore towards initial subscription of 30,00,000 equity shares of face value Rs 10 each. The Certificate of Incorporation was received from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on 7 September 2024.

The said transaction does not fall within related party transactions, it said.

Last year July, the Reliance group company had announced a JV with BlackRock Inc to establish an Asset Management Company, and further expanded the scope of the partnership on 15 April 2024 by entering into another JV for the wealth management and broking businesses.

The company's services include savings and deposit accounts with Jio Payment Bank Ltd offering competitive interest rates, and investment opportunities through the proposed AMC – Jio BlackRock. Another JV with BlackRock Inc. has been signed which will offer brokerage and wealth management services.

The brokerage services will enable customers to invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities, supported by expert investment advice and comprehensive market research. "This joint venture further strengthens the Company's relationship with BlackRock, Inc., with whom the Company had announced a 50:50 joint venture on July 26, 2023," the company had said.

Moeen retires from international cricket

England all-rounder Moeen Ali has announced his retirement from international cricket. The 37-year-old Ali said in an interview with British newspaper *the Daily Mail* that it was 'time for the next generation.' "It felt the time was right. I've done my part," said Ali, who played 68 tests, 138 ODIs and 92 T20I for England, winning the World Cup in both formats.

Indian paralympians return with record medal haul & promise of more

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE image of Sheetal Devi drawing the bow string with the aid of a strap around her upper body, taking aim and shooting and the arrow piercing the bulls eye moments later.. it will forever remain etched in the memories. The 17-year-old archer without arms drew praise from celebrities and sports enthusiasts across the globe. She may have won a bronze in mixed doubles at the Paris Paralympics and missed out on an individual medal but she won hearts of billions that can be measured only in gold.

She is not the only one with an extraordinary story of stoic resistance to cruel and merciless fate. There are many who had their own stories to tell at the 2024 Paralympics. If it was a forgettable Summer Olympics for India, the country's para athletes ensured they finished on a high with record medal haul on Sunday. Just to compare the effort of all the athletes who competed and those who won medals, in the 12 Paralympics India participated since 1968, the overall medals tally had been 31 with nine gold, 12 silver and 10 bronze. At this Paralympics, the final count was 29 with seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze. In Tokyo three years ago, India won 19 medals with 4 gold, eight silver and six bronze.

Navdeep Singh

Before that in Rio, the total count was just 4 (2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze). What seemed more heartening is that most of the medallists came up with their personal best efforts too. The sports ministry through Sports Authority of India (SAI) had spent about ₹74 crore under Target Olympic Podium Scheme, Khelo India and National Centre of Excellences, where athletes train. A total of 84 members represented India. As expected, 38 para athletes came back with 17 medals. The sport had its share of highest spending of ₹18.78 crore.

MEDAL TALLY					
1	China	94	76	50	220
2	Great Britain	49	44	31	124
3	USA	36	42	27	105
4	Netherlands	27	17	12	56
5	Brazil	25	26	38	89
18	India	7	9	13	29

29 India's best-ever performance in a Paralympics, surpassing the 19 medals they won in 2020 Tokyo Paralympics in 2021

7 Most number of gold medals for India in a Paralympics edition

Navdeep's triumph

The last gold on Saturday night had its own story. Navdeep Singh ensured India won their first F41 category javelin gold at the Paralympics. But it had its share of twists and turns as well. Navdeep, with a throw of 47.32m, finished second behind Iran's Sadegh Beit Sayah. Later, Navdeep's silver was upgraded to gold because Sayah was disqualified for waving a flag of a 'religious nature'. China's Sun Pengxiang won silver and Iraq's Wildan Nukhailawi won bronze."We (three of us) reached the waiting area for the medal ceremony," said Navdeep in an interaction shared by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). "Someone came and showed a red card to the Iranian athlete and I didn't know what happened." However, he was elated because he won gold.

Life had been cruel. He suffered from dwarfism and in the place he grew up, people were not very kind. He admitted that he was teased and taunted while growing up. Hailing from a village in Panipat district, Navneet kept repeating the word 'respect'. "We also deserve respect, I too have brought glory for our country," he said, adding that he would like to educate the society. "I want to tell them that we too exist," he said. Navdeep also revealed how PCI president and two-time medallist at the Paralympics Devendra Jhajharia's words helped him.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Working on team spirit, zoom calls and a WhatsApp group: India captain Srinath Narayanan talks to **Swaroop Swaminathan** about how India are approaching the Olympiad that begins Tuesday...

GETTING READY FOR BIG STAGE

CHESS has increasingly become a game for younger minds. At the upcoming Olympiad in Budapest, few teams will be as representative as that change as the Indian Open team. It will have two teens, one 21-year-old, a 29-year-old and a 38-year-old. Seeded second, this team is 'one of the favourites' for gold in the eyes of the non-playing captain, Srinath Narayanan.

In an interview with this daily, Narayanan spoke about what the team has done over the last month, the focus on building team spirit, why they want to keep things 'relaxed and casual' and how he is juggling between accepting individual player requests but at the cost of the team. *Excerpts*:

R Praggnanandhaa

D Gukesh

● On prep for Olympiad

Everyone has been working on their individual things. As a team, the main focus area has been on building a sense of togetherness and working on team spirit. So, we have created a WhatsApp group, having group calls, plans on spending time together at Budapest and just coming up with ways where we can spend time together.

● On what the online camp

We had some activities during the training camp. During the tournament, there's generally not a lot of time (to spend time together). We hardly have time, dinner is the time when we can socialise. Apart from that, a few players prefer to hit the gym after the game. So that's another place where we can do things as a group. The camp itself was via zoom calls. Personally, I feel it's not important (lack of a physical camp) because... it's a group that's already familiar with each other. It's not like they are coming together for the first time. I feel like we can all pick up where we left off.

● On feedback from players and pressure of being seen as one of the favourites

I do think we are one of the favourites for gold. Having said that, we don't really mention or talk about it. I would say the gold is like the process of checkmate in chess. You know the goal is to eventually checkmate but in order to do that, you need to do a number of smaller things... develop your pieces, control your centre and the attention goes towards accumulating your smaller goals. We have the destination in sight but it's something we don't obsess over.

Everyone has an idea of what needs to happen to win gold. The important rounds, when things get critical and leading up to it. Although it's a younger team, they have a wealth of experience. They have featured in a lot of tournaments. There's clarity. So it's about going there and executing it. It's also about keeping things relaxed and casual. The biggest enemy in such a situation is the internal pressure.

● On balancing that expectation and ensuring the team has fun

I don't have to do a lot as captain on this one. One of the things that can help in such situations, especially in a team event, is generally all the players don't tend to be in the peak of their form. So, in those situations it can help to spend time and hangout together. Someone who's not in the best shape can hangout with someone who's in good form and it can rub off.

Having a positive environment, it's easier said than done in general. Within a group, there can be small frictions, misunderstandings. But with a younger group, it's all the more easier. They still tend to have more flexibility and things haven't been built up over the years.

● On accepting individual player requests but guarding against that affecting team dynamics (Gukesh put his hands up and wanted to play top board in 2022 and the captain accepted it)

Over the years, everyone also understands a bit better that while they have personal preferences, the needs of the individual can be different from the needs of the team. That makes it easier to make decisions because you make decisions prioritising the group over the individual.

While personal preferences are not something irrelevant because people do need to be in a good frame of mind, you need to evaluate how it affects other people within the team or the team as a whole.

You need to have a proper balance; it's not like you can adopt a stance where you say yes to all personal preferences or say no to all personal preferences.

MAKING MOVES

With the 45th Chess Olympiad beginning in Budapest on Tuesday, a look at some of the talking points...

India favourites for medals in both sections

At the last Olympiad in Mahabalipuram, both teams returned bronze medals. However, this time, both teams have been sufficiently strengthened as a few players have grown in stature. That's the thinking behind the Open team emerging as one of the favourites for gold. The women's team, even in the absence of Koneru Humpy, has enough firepower thanks to R Vaishali, who became GM last year, and Divya Deshmukh, world junior champion. The returning D Harika is also a very solid performer.

US, the team to beat

In the Open section, India are the second seeds. The team to beat, at least on paper, are the US team who boast the likes of Fabiano Caruana, Levon Aronian and Wesley So. In terms of ratings, the average rating between the five players is 2758.

Uzbekistan could be fun

Uzbekistan won a shock gold in Mamallapuram and rule them at your own peril. This time, their non-playing captain is none other than Vladimir Kramnik. They have their own prodigy in Nodirbek Abdusattorov, who is already one of the world's best.

0 BOTH INDIAN TEAMS ARE YET TO TASTE GOLD IN AN OVER-THE-BOARD OLYMPIAD.

KNOW THE INDIAN TEAMS

OPEN	
Arjun Erigaisi	2778
D Gukesh	2763
R Praggnanandhaa	2757
Vidit Gujrathi	2720
P Harikrishna	2695
WOMEN	
D Harika	2491
R Vaishali	2488
Divya Deshmukh	2464
Vantika Agrawal	2390
Tania Sachdev	2386

Open: 193 teams
Women: 181 teams
Dates: September 10-23

Pant, Rahul in focus for 1st Test vs B'desh

GOMESH S @ Chennai

IN the lead up to the opening round of the Duleep Trophy match in Bengaluru — India A vs India B — one of the key talking points were the India players who were on a comeback trail in the longer format. KL Rahul was playing his first red-ball game since the Hyderabad Test against England while Rishabh Pant's last first-class match came days before he suffered a car accident in 2022. Then there were the youngsters who had received India caps this year (Sarfaraz Khan, Akash Deep, and Dhruv Jurel).

FFour days on, as India B, led by Abhimanyu Easwaran, beat the Shubman Gill-led India A at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, the picture is clear as to how the squad for the first Test against Bangladesh, which begins in Chennai on September 19, looks like. As the BCCI announced the squad for the first of the two-match series, all aforementioned five are included with left-arm seamer Yash Dayal getting a maiden call-up and Axar making a comeback. Jasprit Bumrah, too, is named in the squad, which means in all likelihood he will take the field in Chennai along with Mohammed Siraj before being rested for the second match.

Brief scores: India B 321 & 184 in 42 ovs (Rishabh Pant 61, Sarfaraz Khan 46; Akash Deep 5/56) bt India A 231 & 198 in 53 ovs (KL Rahul 57, Akash Deep 43; Yash Dayal 3/50)

As things stand, India's top four pick themselves and the No 5 spot and that of the keeper are the ones in contention. This is where the conundrum of Pant or Jurel comes in. While the former is India's mainstay and a pillar in the longest format, the latter has held his own and proved that he belongs at the highest level. In Bengaluru, however, Jurel did not do much as he returned with two single digit scores. Meanwhile, Pant managed to make up for the failure in the first innings with a counter-attacking half-century in the second that was key to his team's victory. Behind the stumps too he looked comfortable and took seven catches in the match. Batting alongside him in the second innings was Sarfaraz, who will be fighting for the No 5 spot. He too did not do much in the first innings, but took the team from 22/3 to 94/4 in 9.1 overs with Pant.

The other No 5 batter in the match, Rahul, fought in the middle, batting for more than 100 balls on both occasions. His fifty on Sunday was the lone bright spot for India A in the defeat. All four of them — Jurel, Rahul, Pant and Sarfaraz — could make the squad for the Test series which is likely to be picked on Monday, and the final call regarding the XI will be made in Chennai. It might come down to whether they would want Pant to play the rest of Duleep Trophy before coming in for New Zealand Tests or play him in the Chennai match and then get rested or go back to domestic to prepare for the Australia tour.

As things stand, Bangladesh might arrive in Chennai few days before the match but the dates are not confirmed yet. It will be clear in the days to come.

Squad for the 1st Test vs Bangladesh: Rohit (C), Jaiswal, Gill, Kohli, Rahul, Sarfaraz, Pant (WK), Jurel (WK), Ashwin, Jadeja, Axar, Kuldeep, Siraj, Akash Deep, Bumrah, Dayal.

New England era off to winning start vs Ireland

AGENCIES @ Dublin

After the pain of the European Championship, England kicked off a new era by beating Ireland 2-0 here. Some 55 days since the defeat to Spain in the Euros final, England began the UEFA Nations League under a new regime following the departure of Gareth Southgate.

Interim coach Lee Carsley made an impressive start at Aviva Stadium after first half goals from Declan Rice and Jack Grealish. The identity of those scorers would have been especially painful for the Irish fans who jeered Rice and Grealish for their decision to switch to England after representing Ireland.

Carsley, who has stepped up from coaching England's European champion under-21s, also represented Ireland as a player. "We've shown that we've got real talent. We can be really pleased with the clean sheet as well," he said. Rice, who made three appearances for Ireland, fired England ahead in the 11th minute. Grealish represented Ireland at youth level up to the U21s and doubled the lead at the end of a slick passing move. Grealish was a surprise omission from Southgate's Euro 2024 squad.

England is behind leader Greece on goal difference in Group B2. Greece beat Finland 3-0 with two goals from Fotis Ioannidis. After some positive performances at the Euros 'following it group stage elimination from the 2022 World Cup ' the Germans kept that feelgood feeling going by routing Hungary 5-0 in Duesseldorf.

England's Jack Grealis (C) celebrates after scoring against Ireland | AP

Niclas F"llkrug struck in the first half before Germany went on a scoring spree after the break with goals from Jamal Musiala, Florian Wirtz, Aleksandar Pavlovic and Kai Havertz. Coach Julian Nagelsmann is aiming to lead Germany to the knockout stage of the Nations League for the first time. This is a new-look Germany following the retirements of Toni Kroos and Ilkay Gundogan after the Euros.

Randhir 1st Indian to be OCA prez

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

VETERAN sports administrator Randhir Singh on Sunday became the first Indian to be elected as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) during the 44th General Assembly of the continental body here.

A five-time Olympic shooter, Randhir was the lone eligible candidate for the OCA president's post. His tenure will run from 2024 till 2028, and his election was unanimous. The 77-year-old Randhir has been the OCA acting president since 2021, filling in for Kuwait's Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who was handed a 15-year ban from sports administration in May this year over ethics breaches. Randhir, who held different administrative posts in Indian and Asian sports bodies, was officially named OCA president in the presence of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and top sports leaders from all 45 countries of Asia. He hails from Patiala in Punjab and belongs to a family of sportspersons.

EXPRESS READ

Defending champs India beat China 3-0

HULUNBUIR (China): The Indian men's hockey team dished out a dominant performance to launch its title defence with a commanding 3-0 win over hosts China in the Asian Champions Trophy here on Sunday. Sukhjeet Singh (14th minute), Uttam, Singh (27th) and Abhishek (32nd) were the goal-scorers for India who will play Japan on Monday.

Double win for Mohsin in Honda Talent Cup

CHENNAI: Mohsin Paramban continued his impressive form, clinching back-to-back victories in Round 4 of the Honda India Talent Cup NSF250R here on Sunday. The rider from Mallapuram, who won Race 1 on Saturday, dominated the second race as well, crossing the finish line with a time of 15:06.939. Prakash Kamat finished second.

US OPEN

'Super proud' Sabalenka stands tall in New York

HOWARD FENDRICH

ARYNA Sabalenka left the U.S. Open in tears 12 months ago as the runner-up. She exited in the semifinals each of the two years before that, other losses that were difficult to digest.

On Saturday, Sabalenka was in a joking mood after winning her first championship at Flushing Meadows and the third Grand Slam title of her career.

Sabalenka, the No. 2 seed, got past No. 6 Jessica Pegula 7-5, 7-5 in a rollicking final under a closed retractable roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium, displaying her typical power while sprinkling in some variation to add this triumph to those at the Australian Open each of the past two seasons. "I had a lot of tough lessons here ... especially last year," Sabalenka said. "In those tough moments (Saturday), I was just trying to stay strong and trying to remind myself that I have been through a lot and I'm strong enough to hold under this pressure."

Sitting near the U.S. Open trophy at her news conference, Sabalenka alluded to "a lot of challenges" away from the court. There was the death of her father in 2019. The death of an ex-boyfriend this March. A right shoulder problem that forced her to withdraw from Wimbledon right before it began this July. "After I lost my father, it's always been my goal to put our family name in the history of tennis," she said.

Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka with the 2024 US Open trophy on Saturday | AP

"Every time I see my name on that trophy, I'm so proud of myself, I'm proud of my family that they never gave up on my dream and that they were doing everything they could to keep me going."

Also driving her: what she called "all those tough losses in the past here." That includes semifinal defeats in 2021 against Leylah Fernandez and in 2022 against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

Most poignant, of course, was last year, when Sabalenka was rattled by the Ashe crowd, blew a set advantage and was defeated by Coco Gauff. Like Gauff, Pegula is an American, but the spectators were far more generous toward Sabalenka this time, applauding her best efforts and even obliging when she waved her arms to ask for extra noise. AP

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

AIIMS NORCET EXAM
Date: September 15, 2024

NTA NITTT EXAM
Date: September 14, 15, 28 and 29 2024

KARNATAKA PGCET 2024
Date: September 18, 2024

newindianexpress.com

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WEEK 2 UPSC MAINS 2024

PREPARATION – ESSAY, ETHICS, AND OPTIONAL PAPERS

As you move into the second week of your UPSC Mains preparation, the focus will shift to Essay, Ethics (GS Paper 4), and your Optional subject. Ravi Kapoor, former Indian Revenue Services officer and Chief Mentor at Testbook says in this week, it is crucial to refine analytical and writing skills

WEEKLY DISTRIBUTION OVERVIEW

1 **ESSAY:** Develop a clear, structured approach to essay writing. Practise writing essays on a variety of topics, drawing from current events and your static knowledge.

2 **ETHICS (GS PAPER 4):** Focus on understanding key ethical theories, values, and applying them to case studies. Incorporate relevant current affairs to enrich your answers.

3 **OPTIONAL PAPER:** Deep dive into your optional subject, revising key concepts and practising answer writing with a focus on depth and clarity.

Ravi Kapoor, former IRS officer & Chief Mentor at Testbook, an exam prep app

DAY 1: Essay Writing - Understanding the Basics

Focus: Core Concepts and Structure

TASKS

Understand the basic structure of an essay — introduction, body, and conclusion. Ensure you can craft a clear thesis statement and support it with logical arguments.

Review past years' essay questions to identify patterns and common themes. For example, questions related to 'education' or 'social justice' are frequently asked.

Practise writing essays on two different topics. Choose one from current affairs (Example, 'The Role of Technology in Modern Education') and one from a static theme (Example, 'Democracy and its Challenges in 21st Century').

Example: In the 2020 UPSC Mains, candidates were asked to write an essay on 'Technology as the Silent Factor in International Relations'. Practise structuring your essays with clear arguments supported by examples from history and current events.

DAY 2: Essay Writing - Advanced Techniques

Focus: Incorporating Current Affairs and Data

TASKS

Learn how to incorporate current affairs, statistics, and examples into your essays to make them more compelling.

Practise writing essays that blend static knowledge with current events. For example, write on 'The Impact of Globalisation on Cultural Identity' using recent global trends and case studies.

Review your essays critically. Focus on improving coherence, argument strength, and the relevance of examples.

Example: Analyse an essay topic like 'Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development: Friends or Foes?' using recent climate change data and economic policies to support your arguments.

DAY 3: Ethics (GS Paper 4) - Static Content

Focus: Ethical Theories and Concepts

TASKS

Revisit key ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Deontology, and Virtue Ethics. Understand how these theories apply to real-world scenarios.

Study the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution, such as justice, equality, and liberty, and how they relate to ethical governance.

Refer to case studies in previous papers and practice framing ethical arguments. For example, study the 2020 question on 'The Ethics of Corporate Social Responsibility'.

Example: Review the 2019 UPSC question on 'Ethical Issues in the Implementation of Public Policies' and prepare case studies that reflect these challenges.

get ready

DAY 4: Ethics (GS Paper 4) - Dynamic Content and Case Studies

Focus: Application of Ethical Theories to Current Affairs

TASKS

Analyse recent events from an ethical perspective. For instance, consider the ethical implications of data privacy in the context of the Aarogya Setu app.

Practise writing answers to case studies that incorporate current ethical dilemmas. For example, 'The Ethics of Vaccine Distribution in a Pandemic'.

Review your notes on values like integrity, transparency, and accountability, and apply them to current governance challenges.

Example: In the 2020 Ethics paper, a case study asked about the ethical considerations in dealing with a natural disaster. Practise similar scenarios using recent disasters like the 2021 Uttarakhand glacier burst.

CONCLUSION: Week 2 is designed to strengthen your analytical abilities and writing skills across Essay, Ethics, and your Optional Paper. By following this structured plan, you will be able to integrate static content with dynamic current affairs, making your answers well-rounded and compelling. Stay focused, practice diligently, and build confidence as you approach the final week of revision and exam simulation.

DAY 5: Optional Paper - Static Content

Focus: Core Concepts and Theories

TASKS

Revisit the fundamental concepts of your optional subject. Ensure you have a strong grasp of key theories, models, and frameworks.

Study past year's questions to identify important topics and recurring themes. For example, if your optional is Sociology, you should focus on relevant topics like 'Social Stratification and Caste System'.

Create concise notes for quick revision and practise writing short answers on these topics.

Example: For an optional like Public Administration, review the 2021 question on 'The Role of Bureaucracy in Development Administration' and make sure you practice answering it with relevant examples.

DAY 6: Optional Paper - Dynamic Content & Writing Practice

Focus: Current Developments in Your Optional Subject

TASKS

Integrate current affairs into your optional subject. For example, if your optional is Political Science, analyse recent developments like the US-China relations or India's foreign policy shifts.

Practise writing answers on these topics, ensuring you can blend theoretical knowledge with current events.

Review recent articles, journals, and papers related to your optional subject to stay updated.

Example: If your optional is Geography, analyse the 2020 question on Urbanisation and its Impact on Climate Change with recent urban policies

DAY 7: Comprehensive Writing Practice & Mock Test

Focus: Simulating Exam Conditions for Essay & Ethics

Example: Compare your mock test answers with model answers or previous year toppers' copies to identify areas for improvement & refine your writing strategy.

TASKS

Attempt a full-length mock test covering Essay and Ethics (GS Paper 4) under timed conditions. This will help you build endurance and improve time management.

Review your answers critically, focusing on the structure, coherence, and depth of analysis.

Use any remaining time to address any weak areas or clear backlogs in your preparation.

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A ROLLERCOASTER FOR THE UPSC, WITH IT BEING IN THE HEADLINES FOR SEVERAL MISHAPS AND IRREGULARITIES. LET US LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY

date check

UPSC in headlines...

JULY 10, 2024

PUJA KHEDKAR, an IAS probationary officer based in Pune, was transferred to Washim by the Maharashtra government following complaints about the alleged misuse of her powers. She was accused of repeatedly seeking unauthorised privileges, such as using a private Audi car equipped with a red-blue beacon light and VIP number plate

July 11, 2024: The Puja Khedkar row escalated when allegations surfaced, accusing her of using fake disability and caste certificates to clear the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exam

July 19, 2024: UPSC registered a criminal case against Khedkar for allegedly forging identity papers, misrepresenting and falsifying facts to obtain extra attempts in the Civil Services Examination 2022

JULY 21, 2024

Amid the heated Puja Khedkar row, UPSC Chairperson **MANOJ SONI** resigned from the top post five years before his tenure due to "personal reasons". Soni joined UPSC in 2017 and was named the Chairperson in May 2023. His term was to end in 2029

July 26, 2024: In the wake of the paper leak in NEET-UG examination as well as Puja Khedkar's 'fake identity' case, the commission invited tenders from public-sector units (PSUs) for Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication, facial recognition of candidates, QR code scanning of e-admit cards and live AI-based CCTV surveillance

July 31, 2024: The commission cancelled Khedkar's candidature in the 2022 Civil Services Examination (CSE) and barred her from appearing for any future examinations of the commission

AUGUST 1, 2024

PREETI SUDAN, former Union Health Secretary, took oath as the new UPSC Chairperson after the sudden resignation of the former Chairperson Manoj Soni

August 20, 2024: Central government directed the commission to withdraw its advertisement issued three days ago, seeking applications for lateral recruitment to senior bureaucratic posts at the Centre, after it was criticised by opposition leaders for not having reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs

AUGUST 21, 2024

In **DELHI HIGH COURT**, the commission opposed an anticipatory bail plea by Puja Khedkar and said she committed fraud against the commission and the public. The Delhi Police also sought dismissal of the pre-arrest bail plea

Pause for Probation

With trainee officer Puja Khedkar being on probation, what does the period mean? What does it entail? Let's take a look

What is the IAS probation period?

Every candidate who qualifies for the UPSC examinations and interview round, and is selected for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) cadre, needs to serve a mandatory probation period of two years. This can be extended by two years by the Center, if necessary. During this period, IAS probationers receive training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)

What does the UPSC probation period entail?

- Every recruit will be on probation for a period of two years
- The probationer shall attend lectures, undergo exams, tests and exercises at LBSNAA
- At the end of the training period, the probationer shall be marked out of 900 based on his performance
- The probationer will have to take the final examination after the training period
- In case a probationer fails the final exam by not scoring the minimum required marks, he/she may be allowed to take a special exam in the subjects that he/she failed

Dos and don'ts for probationers

- Probationers receive a fixed salary and travel allowance during their training
- Probationers are not entitled to special privileges such as an official car with a VIP number plate, official accommodation, an official room with adequate staff, or a constable
- Probationers are to notify the government of any gifts received from close relatives or friends exceeding Rs 25,000 in value
- Probationers are subject to the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, and the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969

define this

CAN YOU GET DISCHARGED?

PROBATIONERS CAN GET DISCHARGED

- If he/she fails to pass the re-exam
- If the government feels that the probationer is ineligible to be recruited to the service
- If he/she had willfully neglected his/her probationary duties and studies
- If he/she lacks the qualities of mind and character required for the service
- If he/she fails to comply with the provisions of these rules

UPSC MAINS: ANSWER WRITING STRATEGIES

- Use keywords to emphasise key points that carry weight and score well. This helps your answer stand out and aids the examiner's focus.
- Each question in the Mains exam includes directives like 'discuss' or 'critically discuss'. It's essential to clearly understand what each directive is asking.
- Highlight the keywords in your answer such that the examiner is directed straight to it.
- Before you begin writing, form a basic outline of your answer in your mind. With practice, this becomes second nature, and if necessary, jot down notes with a pencil as ideas come to you.
- Structure the main body of your answer in paragraphs or bullet points as needed. Bullet points are advisable, as they are time-efficient and commonly used by successful candidates.
- Include diagrams and flowcharts. Also, use maps wherever necessary and especially for geography. Use of data and stat can improve the quality of your answer, especially for Economics and other related subjects.
- Remembering the articles of the Constitution helps with polity questions and improves your grade.
- End your answer with a balanced and positive conclusion. This reflects a constructive mindset and a readiness to find solutions. These qualities are highly valued in a CSE aspirant.

Word count	Marks
150	10
200-225	15
300	20
350	25
Time for each question	7 - 8 mins

- In the Essay paper, you're required to write two essays within a 1000-1200 word limit. So it is advisable to write the essay in paragraphs. Although parts of it can include points and diagrams. Also, always remember to brainstorm, outline and organise.
- The better prepared you are for the GS papers, the more content you'll have for your essay.
- Finally, finish the question paper, try not to leave any questions unanswered.

— Compiled by Mrittika Banerjee and Saumyangi Yadav

DIRECTIVES FOR UPSC ANSWER WRITING

Analyse: Break down the topic into parts and examine each one critically. Discuss the how and why of the topic exploring connections

Examine: Assess the topic with an in-depth evaluation. Consider various viewpoints and provide a balanced judgement

Discuss: Explore the topic in detail covering various aspects, including arguments for and against along with examples

Elucidate: Make the topic clear by explaining it in detail. Provide additional information or examples to ensure understanding

Evaluate: Judge the topic by assessing its merits and demerits. Provide a reasoned opinion supported by evidence

Explain: Clarify the topic by describing how and why something happens. Focus on providing a detailed understanding

Illustrate: Use examples, diagrams or analogies to explain the topic. Ensure that your explanation is easy to understand

Comment: Offer your opinion on the topic based on evidence or arguments. Discuss the implications & significance of the issue

Compare and contrast: Highlight the similarities and differences between two or more elements. Provide a balanced analysis

Justify: Provide reasons or evidence to support an argument or stance. Ensure that your explanation validates the position taken

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09.09.2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

First appearance

Elvis Presley appears on *The Ed Sullivan Show* for the first time on this day in 1956, creating one of the greatest pop culture moments

RISE TO STARDOM

The appearance catapulted Presley to stardom, garnering 60 million viewers or 82.6 % of TV viewers at the time. *The Ed Sullivan Show* earned its best ratings in two years

THE BEGINNINGS

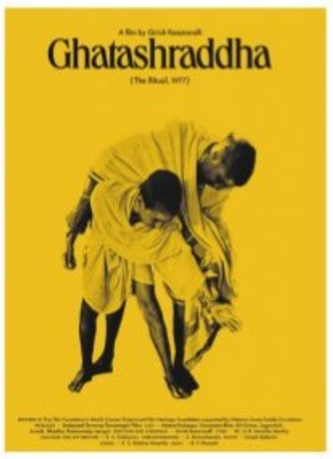
Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1935. His family moved to Memphis. In 1954, Presley cut a record with producer Sam Phillips

FOCUS ON BLUES

John Lennon remarked that before Elvis, there was nothing. Presley's music was a fresh genre, drawing on the African-American blues

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2



47 years after its original release, the restored version of the Kannada classic *Ghatashraddha* premiered at the 81st Venice International Film Festival. Legendary filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli, who watched the restored movie only at the premiere, and archivist-filmmaker Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, reflect on how the film is finally receiving its due

A CULT ABOVE THE REST

MONIKA MONALISA

IN 1977, a young Girish Kasaravalli, a gold medallist from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), made his debut film *Ghatashraddha* with the simple aim of creating 'good cinema'. Little did he know that his first film would go on to become a cult classic. The impact of Kasaravalli's artistry is evident in the fact that the film is still considered a masterpiece. Recently restored, the film's revival was spearheaded by the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), in collaboration with initiatives led by Martin Scorsese (The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project) and George Lucas (Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation).

The restored version premiered at the recently-concluded 81st Venice International Film Festival. Kasaravalli, who attended the Venice screening on September 3 and 4, remarks, "For a long time, people have only seen poor-quality prints. Now they can finally view it in good quality. Although I had seen parts of the restoration before, the premiere was the first time I watched the fully-restored version."

Ghatashraddha, based on a novella by the eminent Kannada writer UR Ananthamurthy, was restored using the original 35mm camera negative preserved at the National Film Archive of India and a 35mm print preserved at the United States Library of Congress. "At one point, I had lost hope of ever seeing it again. The negatives were lost, but we managed to recover them, and finally, it has been restored," shares the 73-year-old veteran filmmaker.

A young Girish Kasaravalli behind the camera

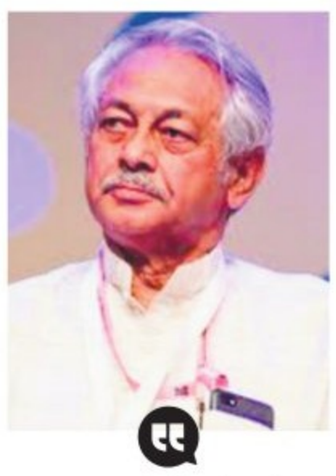
Shivendra Singh Dungarpur

A man of few words, Kasaravalli prefers to let his work speak for itself. Yet, with his deep expertise in filmmaking, he instinctively knows when a film is significant. "Some films, if made well, remain subjects of discussion for years. In the world of cinema, no well-crafted film is ever considered outdated. If it's well made, it's serious cinema. Critics revisit it time and again," Kasaravalli says, speaking from Venice.

Restoring this Kannada classic and ensuring it finally received international recognition has always been a passion project for Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, director of the Film Heritage Foundation. As a fellow FTII alumnus, Dungarpur recalls watching *Ghatashraddha* multiple times. "It was on my wishlist of about 10 films that I wanted to restore. It's one of the most significant films in Indian cinema history," he shares. "Even today, the themes of *Ghatashraddha* resonate, whether in its portrayal of women's roles or the caste system. Girish shot the film in his own village and house, the Kasaravalli home."

Hence, Dungarpur believes that it was fitting that the foundation chose such an important Kannada film for restoration.

The Venice premiere was attended by critics, filmmakers, and members of the Indian film fraternity. Dungarpur, who was also present, expressed his joy at seeing Kasaravalli receive international acclaim. "Girish doesn't actively promote his work, but I must say, the festival has done a great job of positioning him as a master, giving him the respect he truly deserves as a filmmaker," Dungarpur concludes.



At one point, I had lost hope of ever seeing Ghatashraddha again. The negatives were lost, but we managed to recover them, and finally, it has been restored
Girish Kasaravalli, filmmaker

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a seasoned hospitality professional with a rich background in business development, sales, and marketing with renowned hotels and F&B companies. With an unwavering passion for food, travel, and wines, he takes great delight in sharing his insights and experiences as a columnist.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first - prize winner will get a voucher worth ₹1,600 from Burma Burma**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Songpyeon 2) Fricassee 3) Strudel

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Gayathri Sriya
2. Anilkumar Janardanan
3. Manisha K

MAPPING THE JOURNEY FROM BANGALORE TO BENGALURU

Through art, food, and performances, Bengalureans are ensuring that the stories of communities in the city are not lost to time

POOJA DAS

WHAT defines a city's identity? Is it the ever-expanding skyline or the vast technology parks? Or is it the memories, traditions, and cultural landmarks that make each neighbourhood unique, while contributing to a larger identity? Under Project560, an initiative by the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA), many in the city are delving beneath its bustling streets to reveal the often-forgotten charm of Bengaluru's neighbourhoods, which remains integral to its identity.

Roshini M, a conservation architect, chose to focus on her 75-year-old neighbourhood of Rajajinagar. "I developed a cultural map of Rajajinagar, highlighting significant and culturally important locations," says Roshini, who aims to raise awareness of its historical value, in contrast to more well-known areas like Malleswaram. By organising sketching events, she engaged the public at places such as Rajajinagar Memorial Pillar, the lesser-known Rumale Art House, and the Navrang Theatre, built by an Australian architect in the 1960s.

Roshini believes the old charm of these neighbourhoods is poorly documented. "There is still a concept of 'katte' here. There's usually a big Banyan tree with stone benches around it, where people sit, chat, and read newspapers. You don't find that in the newer neighbourhoods," she adds.

Visual artist Lakshmi Nagaraj, born in Yelahanka, approached the preservation of her neighbourhood through memory mapping sessions, where residents marked locations tied to their personal memories on maps. "Some people described these places physically, while others focused on how these spaces made them feel," explains Nagaraj. Her final installation – a 7.5 by 13-foot map – was a visual representation of Yelahanka's history, featuring drawings based on the memories shared by residents.

One of the first paintings for the project was based on her memory of a boutique that opened during her school days. "I was fascinated by it, but it didn't last long. That's what I found intriguing – places that shut down quickly but still left an impression. If no one remembers these places, do they disappear from history altogether?" she wonders. The project also allowed her to reconnect with Yelahanka. "Growing up, I had a complicated relationship with the place, but when I went to college and lived in a hostel, I developed a renewed sense of love for it," she reflects.

(Top) Chandra Keerthi conducts a guided walk in Majestic as Narada; (Above) Lakshmi Nagaraj works on the visual map installation of Yelahanka

Theatre practitioner Chandra Keerthi B's research took him back to childhood memories of his maternal great-grandfather's home in Majestic, where he spent a lot of time. "It can be disheartening to see that the Bengaluru I grew up in no longer exists. It's crucial to preserve these small yet significant parts of our history because they shape our identities," says Keerthi, who turned his exploration of the area into a guided walk performance. "There was an audio track from Lalbagh Metro Station to Majestic Station. Upon reaching Majestic, I transformed into the mythological character Narada, a storyteller who commented on both the present and past of Bengaluru in a humorous way," he shares. He led participants through the older streets of Majestic, with stops at significant locations such as Priyadarshini Restaurant, the empty lot where Majestic Theatre once stood, his family's printing press, and his old family home.

Meanwhile, Prithiraj Borah, an assistant professor from Vellore Institute of Technology, chose to explore elements changing the social fabric of Bengaluru's neighbourhoods. Focusing on the Northeast Indian community in Kalyan Nagar, he discovered small shops and kitchens that sell authentic dishes from the region. "These shops become a central point for the community, offering people a sense of home in a foreign city," says Borah, whose exhibition not only featured photographs but also allowed visitors to engage with the food. He observes that such spaces reflect the city's acceptance of different communities. "Unlike other cities, Bengaluru has always shown much more acceptance, possibly because of its cosmopolitan nature or the diversity of neighbourhoods like Kalyan Nagar," he adds.

CITY READ

Tribute event to artist Rumale Chennabasaviah

Bengaluru artists, including notable figures such as SG Vasudev and Chandranath Acharya, will pay tribute to artist Rumale Chennabasaviah on his 114th birth anniversary at the Rumale Art House in Rajajinagar on Sunday, September 15. The event, which runs from 11am to 3pm, offers free entry and will feature live art demonstrations, along with opportunities to purchase works by senior artists. Chennabasaviah, a renowned painter and freedom fighter, was celebrated for his impressionist landscapes. His work, including large watercolours, will be on display.

Following the success of her recreations of the Bollywood looks from the '60s & '70s, this celebrity makeup artist has now turned her attention to the '80s

Recreating ICONS

MONIKA MONALISA

CELEBRITY makeup artist Rashida Pavthiwala can go on and on about nude and dewy makeup, but she's equally passionate about the bold, gold, and bronze-heavy looks that were popular in the 1980s. This serves as the inspiration for her latest series, where she recreates iconic Bollywood actors' appearances from that era.

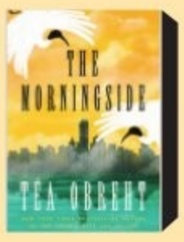
She begins the series with the legendary actor Rekha in gold headgear with brushed eyebrows and bronze tones. "What I loved about Rekha is that she's far from minimalist, making her a makeup artist's dream. Practical fashion wasn't her style. She was one of the few who could effortlessly carry off unique head wraps and headgear. If she's in a gold or black ensemble, she would always add a headpiece. She has a very feminine energy but was also fiercely strong and bold in her imagery," Pavthiwala explains. She adds that, aside from other iconic looks, she will be recreating several more of Rekha's signature styles. Although the look Pavthiwala recreated was inspired by a fashion shoot, Rekha sported numerous headgear styles in her film *Khoon Bhari Maang*.

The second star in the series is Sridevi. "I recreated Sridevi's *Hawa Hawai* look from *Mr India*. She was one of the few actors in the industry who consistently stood out and left a lasting impression. She had a distinct style and brought a refreshing flair to fashion, often using bold, colourful eye makeup," Pavthiwala explains. "I particularly loved *Hawa Hawai* for Sridevi's sheer boldness in carrying off that look. While she was humorous in the song, her style and makeup were anything but comical."

Pavthiwala's previous series focused on actors from the 1960s and '70s, where she recreated the looks of icons like Hema Malini and Sharmila Tagore. However, she admits that recreating the 1980s era was more challenging. "In the '60s and '70s, women began working and embracing fashion. A great deal of effort went into their looks. The 1980s were also a fashionable time, but Bollywood offered much more versatility. Actors like Rekha, Sridevi, and actors like Smita Patil didn't adhere to just one particular style," Pavthiwala explains, adding that it took her around six to seven months of research to perfect these looks.

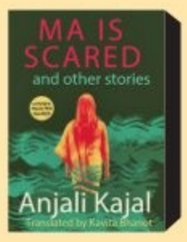
(Top) A recreation of actor Sridevi's look from the film *Mr India*; (Above) A recreation of actor Rekha's look

BOOK NOOK



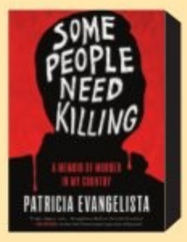
The Morningside
By Téa Obreht

Silvia feels unmoored in her new life because her mother has been secretive about their family's past. Silvia knows almost nothing about the place where she was born and nor does she know why she and her mother had to leave.



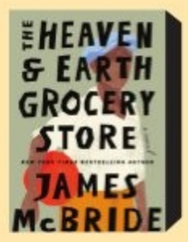
Ma Is Scared and Other Stories
By Anjali Kajal

The stories in Anjali Kajal's debut collection draw us into the lives of women in north India, making us realise quite how rarely we witness stories from Dalit points of view.



Some People Need Killing: A Memoir of Murder in My Country
By Patricia Evangelista

The book is a meticulously reported and deeply human chronicle of the Philippines' drug war. For six years, Patricia chronicled the killings carried out by police and vigilantes in the name of Duterte's war on drugs. She immerses herself in the world of killers and survivors.



The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store
By James McBride

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown were digging the foundations for a new housing development, the last thing they expected to uncover was a human skeleton.

FUNDAY-SUNDAY

Families take a day out to enjoy the festive weekend with a boat ride at Cubbon Park | **SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA**

QUICKFIX

CHICKEN SALAMI SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- **Wheat bread:** 2 slices
- **Chicken breast:** 1, cooked
- **Mayonnaise:** 1/4 cup
- **Lettuce leaf:** 1
- **Tomato slices:** 2
- **Onion slices:** 1
- **Cheese Slice:** 1

METHOD

- Place the two fresh slices of the bread on a plate.
- Put the cooked chicken breast on one slice of the bread.
- Spread mayonnaise on top of the chicken.
- Add lettuce, cheese, onion and tomato slices
- Place the second slice of bread on top.
- Pan-sear for a few minutes until both sides are golden brown. Serve hot.

Contributed by **Mona Malhotra**, Delhi

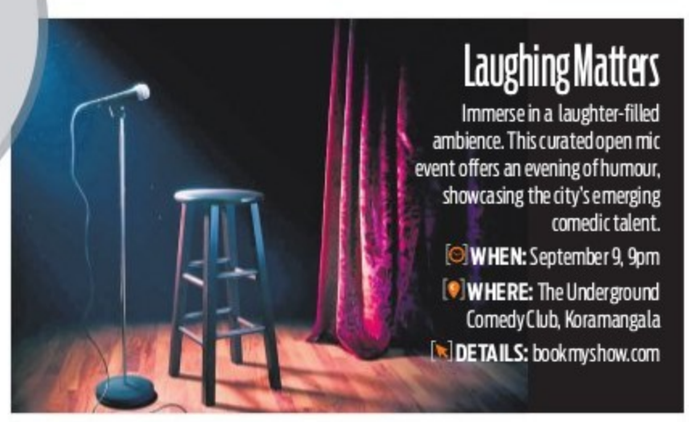
WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Artistic Epoxy
Immerse in the world of creativity at the Beach Resin Art Workshop, offering an opportunity to master the craft of creating stunning resin masterpieces.
WHEN: September 9, 3pm
WHERE: Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Electro Vibes
Feeling the Monday blues? The cure awaits with MRP Nights featuring DJ Wizy. Gather friends and make plans for an unforgettable evening.
WHEN: September 9, 10pm
WHERE: Loft 38, Indiranagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

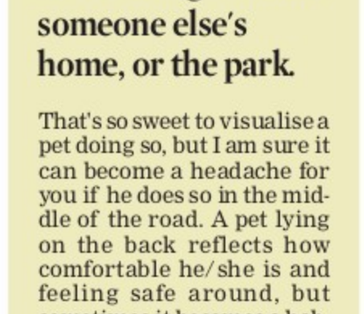
Yoga Bliss
Embark on an enlightening yoga experience that nurtures body, mind, and spirit. The thoughtfully-designed sessions provide an ideal blend of various yoga styles, and both newcomers and experienced practitioners.
WHEN: September 9, 6pm
WHERE: HeyBrewty Wellness Studio, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: allevents.in

Baked Delights
Immerse in the world of baking with the beginner-friendly Art of Baking workshop. This two-hour session offers an opportunity to uncover the secrets of whisking, folding, and mastering batter-making basics.
WHEN: September 9, 3pm
WHERE: SmallWorld, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Laughing Matters
Immerse in a laughter-filled ambience. This curated open mic event offers an evening of humour, showcasing the city's emerging comedic talent.
WHEN: September 9, 9pm
WHERE: The Underground Comedy Club, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Trail Exploration
A premier destination for outdoor adventure activities and camping. This facility offers a range of exhilarating experiences and well-equipped camping sites. Ideal for enthusiasts seeking both thrilling adventures and serene outdoor retreats.
WHEN: September 9, 8am
WHERE: Triquetra, Ramanagara
DETAILS: insider.in



DR VIVEK ARORA
drvivekarora@hotmail.com

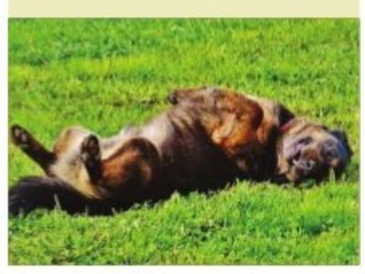
The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

My dog, a 3-year-old male spaniel, often plays dead — he just lies on his back and refuses to move. He can do this in the middle of the road, in the living room in someone else's home, or the park.

That's so sweet to visualise a pet doing so, but I am sure it can become a headache for you if he does so in the middle of the road. A pet lying on the back reflects how comfortable he/she is and feeling safe around, but sometimes it becomes a habit for the pet. Inform the pet

ASK AN XPERT

that you are unhappy with this habit. Reward him as soon as he listens to you and stops doing so. Try to increase his physical exercise and make it more rigorous, he should channelise his energy with more spirit and feel more excited. Such efforts should help change his habits.



EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

PARSVA ANJANEYASANA

(LOW LUNGE POSE SIDE BEND)

This is an intermediate level variation of the base pose Anjaneyasana (Crescent Low Lunge Pose) in which the arms are raised in Namaste Pose. By practising this pose, you can gradually get deeper into the backbend since the spine muscles are stretched. It includes stretching the muscles of the hamstrings, quadriceps, spine and the sides of the body altogether. It can be included in sequences for runners, dancers, swimmers, and gymnasts.

STEPS

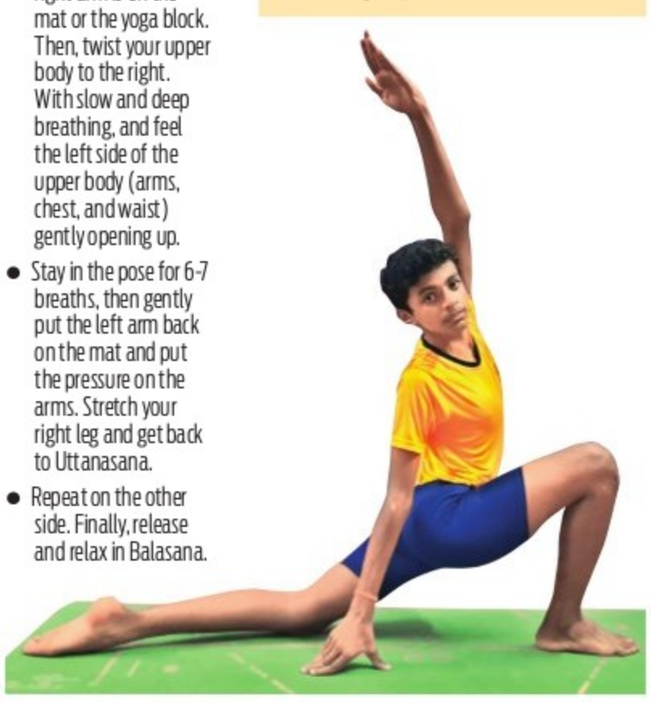
- Start in Uttanasana. Take a deep breath. Exhale, stretch your left foot backward. Place it behind and allow the left knee and thigh to rest on the mat.
- The right foot should be bent at a 90-degree angle. Inhale and stretch your torso, placing the arms on the sides of the mat, trying to balance your body. If it seems difficult to keep the arms on the mat, use a yoga block. This is Low Lunge Pose.
- Feel the stretch in your legs, hip muscles, left quadriceps, and right hamstring muscles. Stretch as per your flexibility. If the body is balanced, take a deep inhale and raise the left arm.
- Make sure that the right arm is on the mat or the yoga block. Then, twist your upper body to the right. With slow and deep breathing, and feel the left side of the upper body (arms, chest, and waist) gently opening up.
- Stay in the pose for 6-7 breaths, then gently put the left arm back on the mat and put the pressure on the arms. Stretch your right leg and get back to Uttanasana.
- Repeat on the other side. Finally, release and relax in Balasana.

BENEFITS

- Helps stretch the full body, including the muscles of the spine, for better flexibility.
- Stretching the legs strengthens hamstrings and quad muscles, helps tone the thighs and calves.
- Helps stretch internal hips and gluteus, and prepares students for Splits Pose.
- Helps in deeper breathing and better flow of Prana and better circulation of blood.
- Being a balancing pose involves having control over the body and breath to ensure a better range of motion.
- Helps reduce the tightness in the body.
- Ensures better blood circulation to the abdominal organs.
- Increases the overall flexibility as it stretches maximum muscles.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with injuries to shoulders, knees, hips, spine or back and shoulders, and surgeries in abdomen, rib cage, and vertebrae conditions, high blood pressure and senior students having weak joints, should avoid this practice.
- Breath awareness is essential while getting into the posture as well as for holding the pose.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

TECH-ART

Samyukta Madhu, a young digital artist, creates a contemporary reinterpretation of traditional South Indian beauty using CGI (Computer-Generated Imagery)

THE PERFORMANCE

Basalt comes in two petrol engine options — 1.2-litre 110 hp turbo and 1.2-litre 82 hp non-turbo. It has three gearbox options — 5MT, 6MT and 6AT. What I drove was the turbo petrol manual top variant. The engine is a real performer. And with a light clutch in its arsenal, driving is easy and enjoyable. Fuel efficiency is also on the comfortable side (18-19 kmpl).

Citroën's Basalt, a mid-segment coupe SUV has entered the market. Let's look at the features of this new comfy-ride

COOL 'N' CURVY COUPÉ

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

GOA is a mesmerising blend of stunning beaches, lush greenery, and vibrant culture. As the monsoon transforms the region into a verdant paradise, this coastal haven becomes even more enchanting. In this picturesque setting, I got the opportunity to take the wheel of Citroën's all-new Basalt coupe SUV. As I navigated through Goa's winding roads, flanked by swaying palm trees and glistening rain-soaked foliage, the vehicle was a comfortable companion, making every moment behind the wheel a delight.

The design

Citroen, with a legacy of introducing iconic coupe models since the 1970s, has infused the Basalt with a sense of timeless elegance. Each curve and contour enhances its visual appeal and improves performance and efficiency. The exterior design of the coupe SUV is captivating and blends modern aesthetics with a nod to the brand's heritage.

The silhouette is accentuated by bold lines and a distinctive grille that commands attention on the road. From the striking LED headlights to the sloping roof and the meticulously crafted rear, the Basalt is magnificent.

Traditionally, coupés, a blend of large hatchback and sedan, have been associated with the luxury segment. In an SUV coupe, the characteristics of an SUV like high ground clearance and high seating position also get incorporated.

From the front grille to the front doors, the Basalt is purely a regular SUV. From there, the roof slants slowly and towards the end and merges with the boot. The boot door begins at the roof (not below the glass area like a sedan).

Huge bumpers, thick wheel arches and side claddings accentuate the SUV look. The signature front grille adorned with the Citroën Chevron logo, diamond-cut R16 alloy wheels, LED projector headlamps and 3D effect tail lamps, high approach and departure angles, ground clearance of 180mm, etc, make the Basalt beautiful and capable. It is 4,352mm long, 1,765mm wide and 1,593mm high.

The inside

The cabin is spacious and bright. The white upholstery looks and feels premium, but to keep it fresh will be a task. The Basalt has a 10.2-inch floating touchscreen with wireless CarPlay and Android Auto, a six-speaker audio system, a seven-inch digital driver display, a wireless charger, a rear AC vent and a rear parking camera. However, there are no push-button start/stop, ventilated and powered seats, cruise control or sunroof.

In the top-end Automatic variant, the rear seat's thigh support cushion area can be adjusted on many levels, adding a new level of relaxation for long journeys. Even otherwise, there is good support and ample legroom. With a wheelbase of 2,651mm, the cabin space is large, with a generous legroom of up to 980 mm for second-row passengers. The boot space is also massive – 470 litres. Citroën's famed Comfort Suspension makes the journey comfortable even on uneven roads. For rear passengers, the headrests are with lateral head support for a more relaxing ride.

Verdict

Ride quality is where the Basalt scores most. The suspension is well-tuned to absorb the abnormalities of road surfaces. The noise and vibration levels inside the cabin are low. Precise steering enthuses confidence. There is some body roll, but not as much as in an SUV. Though the car is beautiful and capable, that is not enough to fight in the market. That's why Citroen has priced the car competitively. While the petrol engine variants cost between ₹8 lakh and ₹10 lakh(ex-showroom), the turbo petrol ones range between ₹11.49 lakh and ₹13.62 lakh.

THE SAFETY

Basalt boasts advanced features such as six airbags, an electronic stability program (ESP), hill hold control, tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS), engine stop/start technology, and ISOFIX child seat anchors as standard across variants.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

NEW RELEASES

AUDI Q8

Audi, the German luxury car manufacturer, has announced the launch of the new Audi Q8 in India. Q8 is a fusion of dynamic sportiness and elegance where every detail embodies sophistication and power. The short overhangs and long wheelbase lend a dynamic and elegant stance. The new Audi Q8 is available in India at a starting price of ₹1,17,49,000 (ex-showroom).

ŠKODA KYLAQ

Škoda Auto India has announced that the name of its new compact SUV – KYLAQ. In a first-of-its-kind campaign, the name was selected from 2,00,000 entries received from India. Following Škoda's traditional ICE SUV nomenclature, it starts with 'K' and ends with 'Q'. Ten finalists in the competition will win an exclusive trip to Prague. The grand prize winner will also get the first vehicle off the production line in 2025. Kylaq is derived from the Sanskrit word for crystal, reflecting both the vehicle's pristine qualities and inspiration from Mount Kailash. This SUV is based on the platform of the Kushaq SUV and the Slavia sedan.

KIA INDIA EXPANDS FOOTHOLD IN KERALA

Kia India, a leading carmaker, announced the addition of seven new dealerships in Kerala. With the new dealers coming on board, the company has 30 touchpoints in the state. The company is focusing on making its products more accessible to customers and ensuring they have a hassle-free experience. The carmaker plans to achieve over 700 touchpoints by the end of 2024. Kia India, celebrating its fifth year in the country, announced the achievement of the 1 Million unit sales milestone in the domestic market within 59 months of its India operations.

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

The First Descendant: To play or not to play?

HERE'S the honest truth. I couldn't possibly describe *The First Descendant*'s gameplay in any way that would convince you to buy it. It's at best an average third-person looter shooter game. It's also mostly derivative, and you might be better off playing one of the dozen other shooters that this title takes inspiration from. It has a half-hearted version of the grappling hook from the *Arkham* games, a weak attempt at boss-battles from *Halo*, and special character abilities that the *Diablo* series does better.

But I think I am getting ahead of myself. What is *The First Descendant* all about? It's an MMORPG set in a dystopian sci-fi universe. An invasive alien race is threatening the future of the world, and as a Descendant in the region of Albion, you are called upon to fight them. You are sent on multiple missions to repel the threat. Eventually, you level up enough to fight the tougher monsters. There are many different Descendant characters each with different playstyles. It takes a bit of time and luck finding the right collectible items to 'research' the Descendant characters, but you would eventually be able to unlock all of them. As the game progresses, you spend a lot more of your time on the game menus, tinkering with 'module' combinations, and upgrades to your weapons. Later in the game, these upgrades make or break those battles with the aliens.

The game isn't without some fundamental problems. The in-game AI is often weird and broken: I could be standing next to an alien for a full minute, and it wouldn't detect my presence. It's also quite restricted in terms of gameplay experience. There's no tangible difference between one mission and the next. You simply need to hold down the trigger button of a sub-machine gun and point it in every possible direction, and the mission is finished in minutes. The initial 10 hours felt like a mindless grind, without much of a challenge. And this is me nitpicking at this point – but I did find the dialogue extremely dull. It is just a bunch of sci-fi sounding words mashed together to form barely coherent sentences. The story didn't truly get me to care about Albion and its thousands of human/cyborg residents, and I personally find this to be a limiting factor. But all of this really doesn't matter, does it? Because I am not trying to sell the game to you.

And the developer isn't trying to sell it to you either. The thing is you don't need to buy it. *The First Descendant*, you see, is free-to-play. It's how things are in these situations: if it's free, we will literally lap up everything they have to offer. I am guilty of enabling these games. I think to myself – it isn't emptying my wallet, why shouldn't I just pick it up and spend hundreds of hours on this game, even if it is objectively mediocre? A free game. A hazy mist surrounds my brain. Suddenly, all the things that I would hate are now a beautiful gift. I love the non-challenging gameplay. I still get all of the loot and rewards, don't I? The broken AI isn't a problem – it is so bad, that it circles around to become funny. The lazy storytelling is now bonus flavour text. I want the game to tell me more about the 'quantum monolith' and 'data inversion'. The unlockable Descendant characters made this experience even more tolerable. I got this character called 'Bunny' very early on in the game, and I did love using her super-fast electrically charged powers that zaps the aliens to dust.

Even so, these shining moments in the game are desperately too few, and you eventually get the sense that you are about to plateau in terms of progression to a point where the game makes you pay for it. You can play *The First Descendant* if you a) have access to fast internet, b) play games on literally any platform c) don't mind the eventual microtransactions.

(The writer's views are personal)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHARVI N. D/o Narasinga Rao J. 20 years, Residing at No. 4/1, Bengalurappa Layout, 1st Cross, Herohalli Cross, Andhrahalli Main Road, Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru-560091. I have changed my name from **KHUSHI N. To CHARVI N.** For all purposes Vide Affidavit Dated 03.09.2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUVARNINI KONALE** W/o Shrivatsa B.N., Aged About 38 Years, Naturopathy & Yoga Doctor and Resident of # 571, Keremane, Bheemanakone-1, Kerekoppa, Sagara, Shivamogga, Karnataka - 577417 have changed my name from **SUVARNINI, SUVARNINI RAO KONALE, SUVARNINI KONALE, HONNAMMA KONALE** and **HONNAMMA K.** to **SUVARNINI KONALE** vide affidavit dated 12.08.2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary S. Nagaraj at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANSKRITI SAURABH BIRANGE,** resident of No. 56, 7th Main, Nayak Layout, JP Nagar 8th PHASE, Bangalore – 560076 have changed my name to **SANSKRITI BIRANGE** Affidavit dated 06.09.2024 sworn before advocate and notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHINDE YESHNA JAYESH. D/o Jayesh Manojirao Shinde 24 years, Residing at No. AB20, Anaaya Bliss, DPS School Road, Kodathi Gate, Sarjapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560035. I have changed my name from **SHINDE BHUMIKA JAYESH To SHINDE YESHNA JAYESH.** For all purposes Vide Affidavit Dated 03.09.2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAHUL RANJAN,** aged about 37 years, S/o Om Prakash, R/at : D603, Tower-3, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Off RMZ Ecoworld, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur Post, Bangalore - 560103. Karnataka. have changed my minor son's name from **"TRAYAKSH RANJAN"** to **"TRAYAKSH PAREEK RANJAN"**, (DOB: 03.04.2018) and same changed (new) name is updated in his Birth Certificate and Aadhar as well for all future purposes vide affidavit dated: 04-09-2024 sworn before P. Nanjunda Notary at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, C. V. Deepak, S/o.Chikkaven katappa, aged 44 years, R/at No.159/E, 17th Main, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560040, I have changed my minor son's name from **'Kshithij Deepak' to 'Kshithij Aprameya Deepak'.** Vide affidavit dated 19.01.2003. Sworn before Advocate & Notary B.Chitra, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ROOPALI KUMBAR K** residing at no. B-G04, Saptagiri Maharshi Gokulam, SY no.19/2 Bidare Agrahara, Doddabanahalli Bengaluru - 560049, have changed my name to **ROOPALI KUMBAR** vide affidavit dated 02/09 /2024 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **L.R.BABU,** father of Kum, Sanjana B, R/at No.448, Dasappanapalya, Chikkabanavar, Bangalore - 560057. have changed my minor daughter's name from **"SANJANA.B"** to **" SHRUTHI NAIDU L.B.",** vide affidavit dated : 31-08-2024 sworn before **T.C.Thimmaraja** at Bangalore.

For SMART ADS & INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

A still from the film

'We wanted to make a statement with *Ronny*'

... says Gurutej Shetty, as he discusses his upcoming action-family genre, ahead of its release this week

CE FEATURES

RONNY has been stirring excitement ever since actor Kiran Raj took to skydiving to announce the title uniquely. As the film gears up for its release on September 12, director Gurutej Shetty, who has previously collaborated with Kiran Raj for *Buddies*, shares insights about this cinematic venture that blends gangster drama with heartfelt family themes.

"We wanted to make a statement with Ronny," Gurutej reveals. "While it may appear to be a standard gangster film on the surface, it's a rich blend of intense drama set against a family-centric backdrop. Our aim was to create a film that doesn't just entertain but also connect with audiences of all ages."

The makers are planning to release the film in over 150 to 200 theaters across Karnataka, with additional releases in Mumbai, Pune, and Delhi. Gurutej notes, "Kiran Raj is a well-known face from the small-screen, especially for his role in Kannadati. We kept his extensive fan base in mind while crafting Ronny, ensuring it appeals to families looking for a compelling yet accessible narrative." The director, who serves as the story writer, screenwriter, dialogue writer, and director on this project, further explains, "Unlike typical gangster tales driven by vengeance or criminal intrigue, our protagonist's fight is for an entirely different cause, which is what makes Ronny stand out."

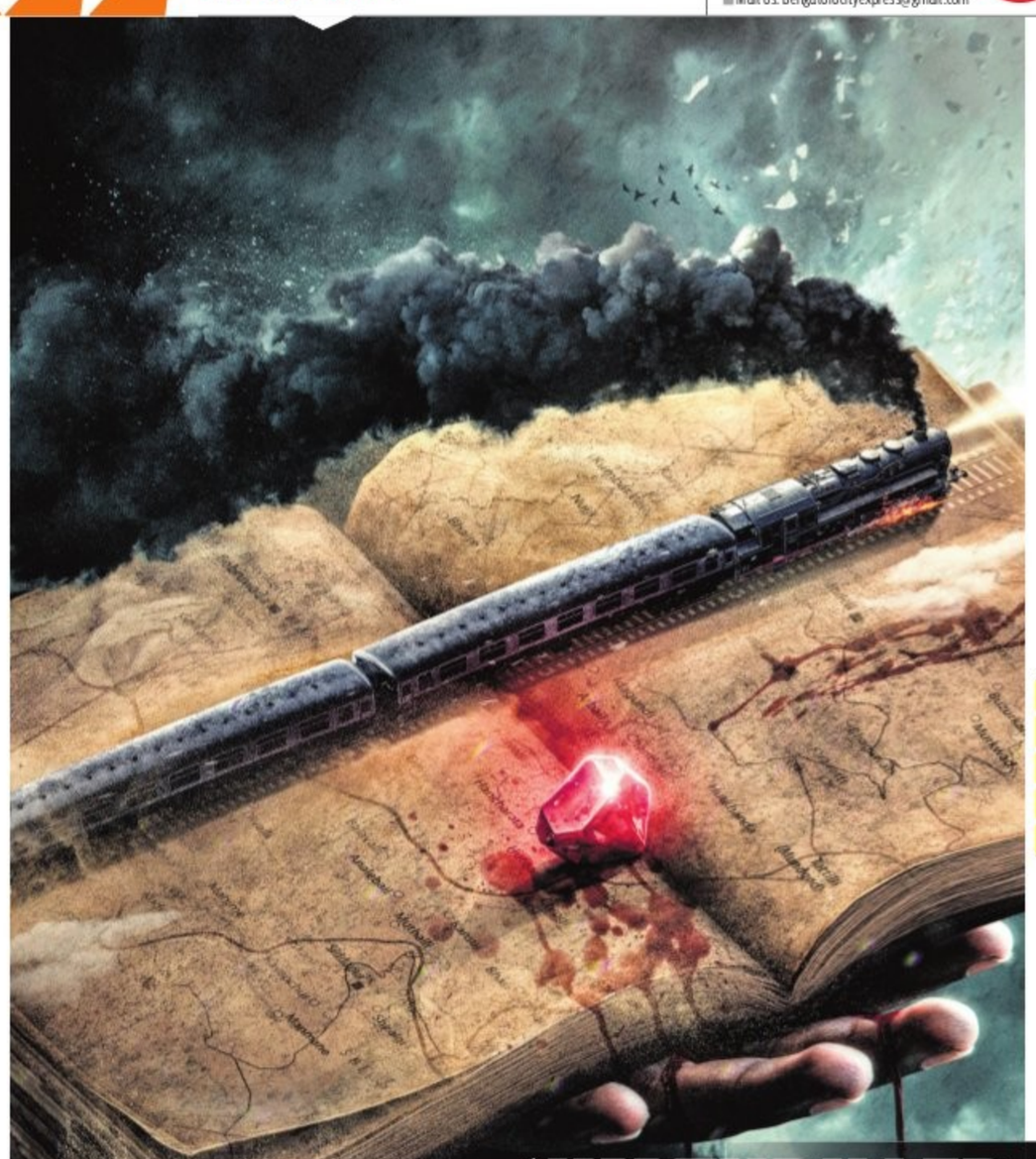
Along with Kiran Raj, the film features three female leads—Apoorva, Radhya, and Sameeksha. "Kiran Raj has truly brought depth to his character along with our female leads, and an ensemble cast including Ravi Shankar, Girish Hegde, Maiko Nagaraj, Ugram Manju, Ugram Ravi, Yash Shetty, Sujay Shastri, B Suresha, Sreedhar, and Lakshmi Subbiah, who have all contributed to making this story come alive."

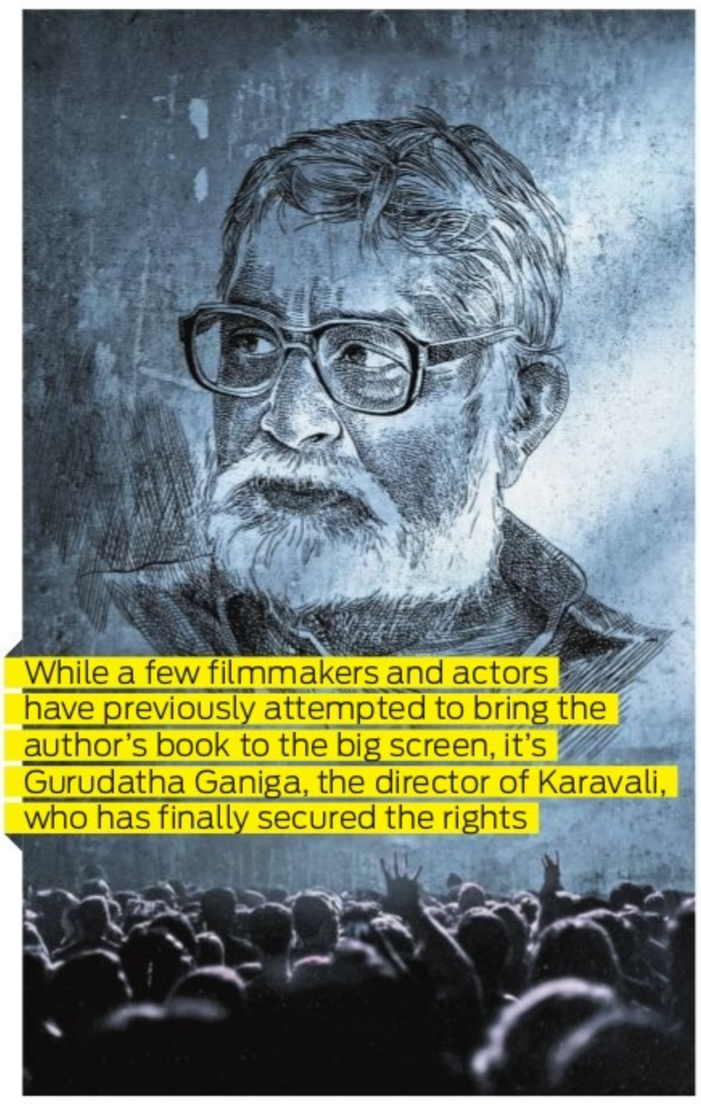
With action being a significant element of Ronny, Gurutej lauds Vinod Master's exceptional stunt choreography. "The action sequences are intense and well-crafted. Moreover, the soundtrack plays a crucial role in amplifying the film's emotional and dramatic impact. We have six tracks composed by Manikant Kadri, with lyrics by Promod Marvante, while Sachin Basrur has composed the background score," he says.

The film's cinematography is by Ragavendra B Kolar, art direction is by Satish Perdoor and editing is by Umesh.

Unlike typical gangster tales driven by vengeance or criminal intrigue, our protagonist's fight is for an entirely different cause, which is what kes Ronny stand out

- Gurutej Shetty, director





While a few filmmakers and actors have previously attempted to bring the author's book to the big screen, it's Gurudatha Ganiga, the director of Karavali, who has finally secured the rights

'I'M THRILLED AND HONOURED TO ADAPT POORNACHANDRA TEJASWI'S NOVEL *JUGARI CROSS* FOR THE SILVER SCREEN'

A SHARADHAA

IN a move that has thrilled Kannada literature fans, director Gurudatha Ganiga has officially announced the adaptation of the iconic Kannada novel *Jugari Cross* by KP Poornachandra Tejaswi. The announcement was made on the birthday of the legendary author.

Over the years, many have attempted to adapt *Jugari Cross* for the screen. The first effort was by director Kodlu Ramakrishna, who envisioned a film featuring Shivrajkumar and Soundarya in the lead roles. This attempt, however, did not materialise. Later, TS Nagabharana took on the challenge, initiating the project with Chiranjeevi Sarja and conducting a ceremonial muhurat. Unfortunately, this version also did not proceed beyond the initial stages.

Gurudatha Ganiga with Poornachandra Tejaswi's family

Now, Gurudatha Ganiga, known for his directorial ventures *Ambi Ning Vyaasaytho* and the upcoming Prajwal Devaraj-starrer *Karavali*, is all set to adapt the much-acclaimed novel. "A lot of actors and directors have attempted to adapt Tejaswi's novel into a film, but it never came to fruition," Gurudatha says in an exclusive interview with CE. "I'm ecstatic to have finally acquired the rights and am honoured to bring this cherished story to the big screen."

Jugari Cross is celebrated for its compelling narrative set in the lush Western Ghats. The novel explores pressing themes such as wildlife poaching, theft, and the dark side of human exploitation of natural resources. Its vivid portrayal of these issues makes it an essential read and a relevant story for today's audience.

Gurudatha Ganiga chose to unveil the project on Tejaswi's birthday to honor the author's remarkable contribution to Kannada literature. "We wanted to make the announcement on this special day to pay tribute to Tejaswi's legacy," Gurudatha explains. "It's not just a significant moment for me, but for all fans of his work."

The film's casting remains under wraps, with Gurudath indicating that the team is still finalising the actors. "We aim to announce the cast in about a month," he reveals. "I've been pursuing the rights to this novel for the past five years. As a devoted fan of Tejaswi, I'm thrilled to finally make this adaptation a reality." Tejaswi's daughter has expressed her satisfaction with the theme poster of the upcoming adaptation. "Susmitha mentioned that she can see *Jugari Cross* coming to life in one frame," Gurudatha shares. "Her feedback was incredibly encouraging and reassured us that we are on the right path."

According to Gurudatha, *Jugari Cross* is not only a crucial piece of Kannada literature but also a story that has universal appeal. "This is a narrative that speaks about today's issues and will resonate with audiences beyond Kannada-speaking regions. It's a story that deserves to be told and seen by a diverse audience," he says.

While Abhimanyu Sadanandan will handle the cinematography, Gurudatha is currently finalising other technical crew members of the project. The film is set to commence production in January 2025, following the completion of his current directorial, *Karavali*.

Lawyer-turned-director Rajat Maurya to helm and headline *Vaikunta Samaaraadhane*

CE FEATURES

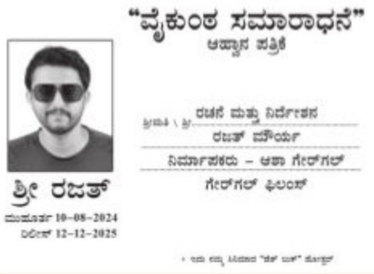
THE poster for the upcoming film *Vaikunta Samaaraadhane*, which was unveiled recently, adopts a unique style reminiscent of a funeral announcement, featuring a black-and-white theme. It humorously notes the film's muhurat date, which is followed by the release date: December 12, 2025. The 'death look' poster has already gone viral, generating considerable buzz.

Director Rajat Maurya, who is helming *Vaikunta Samaaraadhane* and also playing the lead, is a lawyer by profession who has also trained in acting and filmmaking during his spare time. He is taking on multiple roles for this film: storyteller, screenwriter, director, and lead actor. His modelling experience has contributed to his cinematic journey. Asha Gergal is producing *Vaikunta Samaaraadhane* under the Gergal Films banner.

Speaking about the upcoming film, Rajat Maurya says, "My inspiration for *Vaikunta Samaaraadhane* comes from my family—my grandfather, father, and mother—and my childhood days with my grandfather. We've blended elements of emotion, entertainment, family drama, romance, suspense, and both rural and urban settings into the story."

Casting for the lead actors and other roles will be finalised soon. The film will feature three songs and action sequences. The film will have music composed by Ritvik Muralidhar and cinematography handled by Harshit B Gowda. About sixty percent of the film will be shot in the Western Ghats, with the remaining portions planned to be filmed around Bengaluru.

Rajat Maurya



"ವೈಕುಂಠ ಸಮಾರಾಧನೆ"
ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ

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ಮುಹೂರ್ತ 10-08-2024
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Dhanveerrah to play a tough cop in *Hayagreeva*

CE FEATURES

THE makers of *Hayagreeva* have unveiled the first-look poster of Dhanveerrah from the upcoming film. This poster, which was unveiled on the occasion of the actor's birthday, offers a glimpse of Dhanveerrah's intense and commanding presence in a striking new role—a tough, no-nonsense police officer.

Produced under the banner of KVC Productions and directed by Raghu Kumar O R, *Hayagreeva* is expected to be high on drama and action. In the newly unveiled poster, Dhanveerrah sports a rugged cop look, complete with a serious expression and authoritative stance.

The film's production is nearing completion, with only one song left to be filmed. The project is currently in the final stages of dubbing, gearing up for release. Sanjana Anand is joining Dhanveerrah in *Hayagreeva* as the female lead. The supporting cast features notable actors such as Sadhu Kokila, Ramesh Bhat, Sharath Lohitashwa, and Shobh Raj.

The film's album includes three songs composed by Judah Sandy. Girish R Gowda handles cinematography, KM Prakash manages editing, Arjun Raj is the action director and dance choreography is by Bhooshan.

Dhanveerrah